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Consumer

BULLETIN

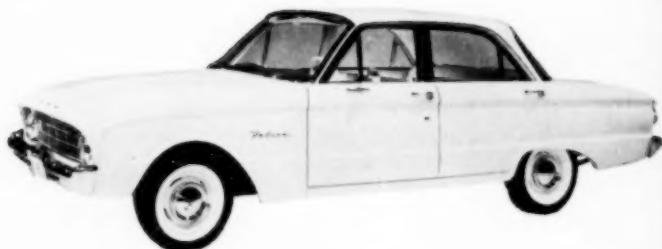
The Original Consumer Information Magazine

Testing and Reporting on Products since 1928



THE BIG THREE'S 'LITTLE THREE':

TESTS OF
CORVAIR AND
FALCON CARS



TV SETS FOR 1960

Tests of 15 models



Electric blankets

Sweaters for women

**Encyclopedias
for the children**

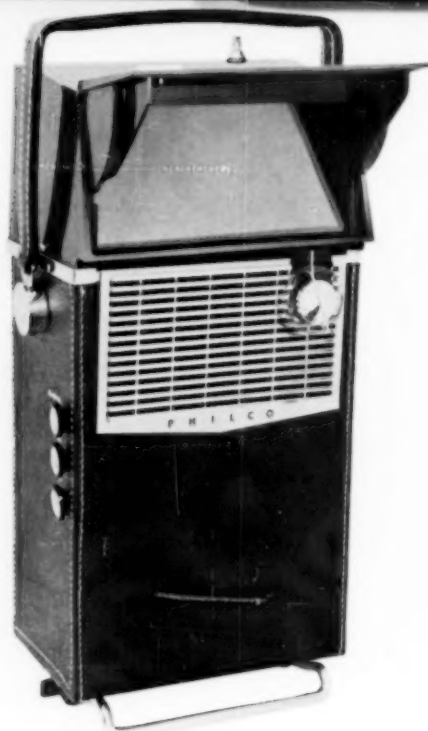
Your fuel bill, and degree-days

A look at the 1960 TV receivers

The Philco Safari, a battery-operated portable set, is the newest thing in TV receivers. Its good and bad features, along with those of many other 1960 models tested by Consumers' Research, are discussed in this article.

WE are pleased to report that several major manufacturers of TV receivers—Motorola and Westinghouse are two—are following a praiseworthy trend noticeable in *Zenith* receivers for the past two years of placing increasing emphasis in manufacture on quality. Thus, while no really important changes in circuit designs were noted in the 1960 television receivers, more subtle differences were to be found in respect to wiring details, improvements in printed circuits, and in quality of parts, and other details which combine to provide sets with better performance, less need for servicing, and longer life.

There is something new for 1960, however, a portable television set which employs transistors. In the past few years several manufacturers have designed or have made ready for manufacture



Philco Safari

portable television sets which employ transistors to achieve compactness, and operation on dry batteries when desired. The principal deterrent to immediate manufacture was the high price that manufacturers would have had to charge for the transistor receiver. It remained for Philco to break the ice, commercially, with a combination ac-and-battery-operated portable—the *Safari*—that is priced at \$250 and is truly portable.

Very probably other companies will have portable receivers available in 1960, particularly if the *Philco* model proves to sell well. Indeed, there have been some indications that a portable might be imported from Japan for Christmas sales, and that if it should be, it might sell for about half the price of the *Philco*.

Color TV

Although Consumers' Research did not test the few 1960 models, our study of color receivers has continued since our last published report (see January 1957 BULLETIN). It is obvious that manufacturers still have difficult technical problems to solve, and we advise anyone purchasing a color receiver at this time to include a service policy or contract as a part of his purchase. (The charge for such a contract is about \$80.)

Rectifiers vs. transformers

Manufacturers made many changes in design in past years, having chiefly in mind the need to

(Continued on page 24)



Motorola 21T68

The Consumers' Observation Post

GOOD NEWS FOR CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS—It is reported that prices on gold and gold-plated jewelry made in the U.S. have been reduced about 15 percent this year to compete with low-priced Italian and Japanese imports.

* * *

RECORD CLUBS THAT OFFER BARGAINS IN RECORDINGS have had their ups and downs in recent years. The current entry of The Diners' Club into the record mail-order field has introduced for the first time a large scale multi-label club. An excellent discussion of the background and history of these clubs, in *Hi-Fi Review*, August 1959, pointed out that such clubs are quite useful to the buyer who is new to record collecting, particularly in the classical music field. The basic selections are usually made with care and intelligence by qualified experts, and the new listener will have a choice of a high percentage of accepted major musical masterpieces. On the other hand, the selections offered are probably too restricted for the listener who already has a large library, or whose tastes are highly developed, or one who has ready access to big-city discount stores, or who wants personalized shopping service. The brochures which accompany the monthly record club selections in the concert field often furnish useful information and illustrations that provide a good background in the basic concert repertoire for the beginner. The article warns that there is no record club operated by Santa Claus and that it is doubtful whether there are any great savings to be made over purchases at big-city discount stores except for those who live too far from such sources of supply.

* * *

PICKING THE CHRISTMAS TREE so that it will not drop needles all over the floor before the Christmas ornaments are hung, is sometimes a problem. Experts advise bouncing the new tree on its butt end to make certain that the needles are tightly affixed at the time of purchase and pulling the needles at the end of a branch to see if they have good resistant to removal. If the stump is sticky with resin, the tree is likely to be fresh. Make certain the lower branches are springy and sturdy so that they can support the ornaments and lights adequately. Keep the tree in a pail of cold water in the garage or some other cool place until it is time to set it up. Douglas and balsam fir trees retain needles much better than spruce and hemlock.

* * *

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST the two-car family to support a second car? According to a professional journal, if you pay \$3000 for the second car it will depreciate about \$1000, the first year. Insurance will run to \$150. Gasoline, oil, lubrication, and miscellaneous maintenance comes to \$400, making the total bill around \$1550 for the first year.

* * *

FROZEN FOODS SHOULD BE HELD in the range from 5 degrees Fahrenheit below zero to 5 degrees above from the time they are processed until the consumer makes a purchase at the store. The quality deteriorates when frozen food is held at a higher temperature for any length of time, according to a study made by the State Laboratories Department of North Dakota. It is particularly important that food be delivered at low temperatures in mechanically refrigerated delivery trucks and held at a constant low temperature in display cases. These precautions are too often entirely disregarded. The consumer has no way of telling at the present time when frozen foods have been improperly handled, or thawed and refrozen, but one of the obvious indications, with fruit juices, at least, is a soiled cover on the package. The North Dakota bureau warns that frozen juices and soups are being held at a too high a temperature if the contents are sloshy when the container is picked up and shaken.

PLEASANT MEALS AT WHICH GOOD FOOD IS SERVED are likely to keep the psychiatrist away. According to Gaynor Maddox, food and markets editor, ulcers rarely start at a congenial dinner table. He observes that money and time spent on good meals can cut down doctor bills and lessen family tensions, particularly where there are children. Mr. Maddox notes that with the advances in canning, freezing, and dehydrating, drudgery and monotony in the kitchen have been cut down considerably.

* * *

SMALL, CONVENIENT CARS for getting around over short distances are arousing great interest these days in many circles. Some half-a-dozen firms and inventors are working on the development of a practical electric automobile that will have enough power to go reasonably long distances without having too much weight and bulk due to the necessarily heavy batteries. Another type is the smaller, almost toy-like vehicle for getting around golf courses, the grounds of big manufacturing plants, and farms. One of the newest developments of the latter is a little one-cylinder buggy called Go-Kart described by The Wall Street Journal as essentially little more than a skeleton frame, 40 to 50 inches long, that connects a 2-1/2-horsepower, 1-cylinder engine to the four wheels, and a seat. The carts, which weigh up to 80 pounds each, can go as fast as 30 to 50 miles per hour, and sell for around \$200. The two leading manufacturers of "Karts" at the present time are Go-Kart Manufacturing Company of Azusa, California, and Ben Hunt & Son, Walla Walla, Washington. If the trend toward smallness continues, the little foreign cars are going to look like giants.

* * *

AIR POLLUTION IS A HEALTH HAZARD throughout the world. Industrial areas are the worst in this respect for, according to a drug trade journal, aside from the irritation to the respiratory tract from the particles of dust in the air, the pall of dirt and smoke prevents cooling by irradiation, absorbs short-wave rays of sunlight, and reduces ultraviolet radiation. Rural dust and pollen, city smog and soot are considered particularly dangerous to men in their 30's, who inhale a large volume of the contaminants because of their physical activity. A temporary change of climate on vacation or on doctor's orders sometimes produces an improvement, but a premature return to unfavorable weather at home may negate any benefits by subjecting the patient to a quick succession of extremes to which he cannot readily adjust, a factor that frequently works to the disadvantage of some who go South in the winter.

* * *

MEN'S SUITS WILL BE HIGHER IN PRICE this coming spring, is the prediction in the trade. Wool is going up in price and retailers are expected to add \$1.50 to \$2.50 to the prices of suits containing it. Wash-and-wear suits and suits made of synthetics are likely to remain relatively stable in price.

* * *

RUGS THAT HAVE A DEEP PILE often need protection from the sharp legs of tables and chairs to prevent wear and development of holes. Little cups called Carpetmates and Carpetguards can be quite effective in distributing the pressure of furniture to secure a better distribution of load on a valuable piece of carpet. They are made of plastic and the underside has a number of teeth which project downward to the rug backing and support the load on the backing instead of the pile. In a wear test by Consumers' Research, they were found to be quite satisfactory over a period of two years, except that several of the teeth broke, perhaps because the davenport they supported was quite heavy. There was, however, no marking of the pile of the rug and the breaking of the teeth did not cause any serious difficulty in the continued use of the cups. They are made by United States Caster Cup Corp., 208 W. 15 St., Kansas City 5, Mo., and are available in sets of 4 at 49 cents for the small size, 69 cents for the larger size, at many department and hardware stores.

(The continuation of this section is on page 37)

Consumer Bulletin

THE ORIGINAL CONSUMER INFORMATION MAGAZINE

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Listings usually are arranged in alphabetical order by brand name (not in order of merit) under each quality or performance rating. A numeral 1, 2, or 3 at the end of a listing indicates relative price, 1 being low, 3 high. Where the 1, 2, 3 price ratings are given, brands in the 1, or least expensive group, are listed alphabetically, followed by brands in price group 2, also in alphabetical order, etc. A quality judgment is wholly independent of price.

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The Big Three's 'Little Three'

MANY MILLIONS of words have been written by journalists about the new compact cars, with predictions as to their impact upon American consumers and manufacturers and, too, their effect on consumers' acceptance of the bigger and gaudier cars consumers have liked—in the past—and have bought enthusiastically. Most of the writing about the new small U.S.-made cars, however, can be regarded as "think pieces," merely, for no one knows at this time, or will indeed know for some time to come, what the outcome will be.

The automobile industry is in a real dilemma. For years it has been advertising high horsepower and participating in a senseless race for higher and higher horsepower and ever bigger and more vulnerable cars, harder to control and harder to stop in emergencies. Now the industry will have to about-face and find virtues to brag of in both high horsepower, big cars, capable of speeds above 100 miles an hour, and smaller and less powerful cars which will be capable of speeds up to "only" 90 to 100 miles an hour. We may expect manufacturers and dealers to claim that they have the biggest, most powerful, and fastest "compact" car.

There has been a notable public interest in the new small cars of Ford and Chevrolet make. In one Western city, where the new small cars of one make were advertised as to be sold beginning at midnight, a crowd was on hand waiting for the dealers' doors to open, and several of the small cars were sold before dawn. Dealers report an extremely enthusiastic public and "absolutely no sales resistance." There is no doubt that a good many small foreign cars will be traded in on the American-made small cars, and some American dealers are wondering whether they may not, before long, find themselves in the used-imported-car business. It is obvious that this new market for the compact cars must come from sales formerly going to 1) foreign cars, which in 1959 accounted for over 10 percent of the total cars sold, 2) the *Ramblers* and *Studebaker Lark*, 3) the regular big American cars, and 4) the used car market. *Chevrolet*, *Ford*, and *Chrysler* would, of course, prefer to compete mainly with the foreign car market and with *Ramblers* and the *Studebaker Lark*, rather than with the bigger and more expensive cars they themselves build. Whether they can do this effectively depends upon several factors, the chief of which is price, and second is the public's belated discovery that you can go places in comfort in cars so small that the rear deck does not suggest a landing field for small planes.

CR believes that if the compact cars prove popular, some of the middle-bracket cars as represented by some *Buicks*, *Chryslers*, *Dodges*, *DeSotos*, *Edsels*, *Mercurys*, *Oldsmobiles*, and *Pontiacs* will tend to disappear from the market and the regular lines of *Chevrolet*, *Ford*, and *Plymouth* will become "middle-bracket" cars (as they are now, indeed, when you buy them with customary equipment and convenience features).

The remarkable popularity of the foreign cars is believed to have been due mainly to the fact that they are relatively low in price and high in quality. Most purchasers do not need to return to the dealers for adjustment or repairs during the warranty period—as they have done too often with the regular line of American cars—to have missing parts replaced, bad paint work, trim, and maladjustments corrected, doors correctly fitted, and squeaks and rattles removed.

Prices

The compactness of the smaller cars is not reflected in their prices to a degree that will satisfy many prospective customers. The cars are somewhat larger than, but not (by \$300 to \$500) as low in price as, the best selling foreign imports, *Volkswagen* and *Renault Dauphine*, which have a delivered price of around \$1600 and \$1700, respectively, with heaters, of a sort, as standard equipment. (But far from first-class heaters, especially in the *Volkswagen*.) Comparable prices for the cheapest *Corvair 500* and *Falcon* two-door sedans will be \$2114 and \$2034, respectively, or about 20 to 30 percent more than the *Volkswagen* and *Renault Dauphine*.

If past performance of the American consumer is any criterion, few will want the minimum-priced stripped models, but the de luxe models fully equipped with accessories come high, and dreams of being able to drive one of these cars home for anything even near to \$2000 will vanish after a short talk with the dealer. The delivered price of a fully equipped four-door *Corvair 700* in New Jersey is about \$2570*, not including undercoating, gasoline, anti-freeze, or state and local taxes. The corresponding *Falcon* is about \$140 cheaper, at around \$2430. Dealer's discounts are 21 percent, which is appreciably less than dealers receive on the regular cars. Thus they will have less margin for trading and will do what they can to trade

* Includes all the items listed in the table of prices on page 10, plus back-up lights, outside mirror, windshield washer, glove compartment light, \$32.30; cigarette lighter, right-hand visor, front arm rests, \$10.80; folding rear seat to provide more luggage space, \$32.30; white sidewall tires, \$20.95; wheel rings, \$10.80; instrument panel pad, \$18.30; and two-tone paint, \$10.80.

Chrysler's Valiant. This car, which was not available for test when this article was written, will be reported in a forthcoming issue.



customers up to the regular size cars. In some cases this will not be difficult, as a full size *Chevrolet Biscayne 6* two-door model with radio and heater and standard transmission (Chevrolet's lowest-priced two-door sedan) can be purchased for about \$2360, which is about \$200 less than the most expensive similarly equipped *Corvair 4-door* sedan.

A writer in a trade publication has ventured a suggestion which we think is soundly based, that as the years go by, the new American small cars will carry added features and equipment, and will be upped in price correspondingly, so that within a few years they will be up to today's price level of the lower-priced standard-size cars. The leaders in automobile sales are past masters at pushing for all the traffic will bear and they have been ingenious at finding ways to make the traffic bear \$100 to \$200 more each succeeding year. The only thing that can stop a price-rise trend on the "compact cars" will be that the imported cars may continue to be a menace to American manufacturers even after the American small cars receive general public approval and acceptance and so build up the expected sales momentum.

While the new small cars remain in heavy demand, and in short supply due to the shortages of materials produced by the steel strike, customers will perhaps find discounts (or extra-favorable turn-in allowances) more difficult to negotiate than on the larger cars. (On these last year the figures often ran to 10 to 15 percent, or thereabouts, or sometimes to \$150 to \$200 above dealers' cost—which itself was \$550 to \$700 below

"list price" of a *Ford*, *Chevrolet*, or *Plymouth*.) For the present, purchasers of one of the compact cars will hardly be able to obtain any discount below list price (and they cannot expect a specially favorable turn-in on a used car, which amounts to the same thing) unless they have a special "in" with the dealer.

As experienced buyers know, the nominal or list price of a car is not always conclusive, especially if one wants a car for immediate delivery or within a few weeks. It is said that most *Falcons* actually being shown are priced around \$300 below the *Corvairs* actually displayed and offered to customers. The difference is, of course, mainly in the number and kind of equipment and "features" supplied with the two cars. This situation may clear up so that the actual offering prices will be closer to the nominal or basic prices some months after the end of the steel strike and after deliveries have caught up with the lively demand which existed when the cars were introduced.

Chrysler Corporation dealers are hoping that the compact *Valiant* may duplicate the experience of dealers handling the new *Ford* and *Chevrolet* small cars.

Insurance rates for the "compact" cars should be lower than for regular-size cars. Indeed, the Allstate Insurance Company has announced a 10 percent reduction in their rates for collision, property damage, bodily injury, and medical payments insurance for the small cars, because they will cause less damage in accidents, have smaller glass area, and are cheaper to repair than the larger cars.

Chevrolet Corvair

The *Corvair*, in outward appearance, is a smaller edition of the regular line of *Chevrolets*; it has the dual headlights, and wrap-around rear window. It does not have the *Chevrolet's* characteristic fins at the rear. In performance and handling, the *Corvair* might be termed a semi-sports car rather than a family car. The rear-mounted air-cooled engine, which has been the subject of much comment and argument, was found by Consumers'

Research to perform well under normal driving conditions, and seems to have no disadvantages worth mentioning, so far as one could determine at this early date. Consumers' Research's test drivers have found the car to steer well and to corner well at low speeds and up to speeds as high as anyone can drive safely on typical U. S. roads.

Prospective car purchasers seem indifferent to the matter of the new engine location. Evidently



On the Chevrolet Corvair, part of the luggage space is located behind the rear seat. Note the very low tunnel in the rear floor.

television and other advertising has not persuaded them that there is anything wrong with a rear-mounted engine. They have seen enough *Volkswagens*, *Renaults*, and *Fiats* on the road to realize that the rear engine location seems to present no special problems or dangers, at least if the car is driven conservatively and not by those so reckless that they like a lot of tire squeal mixed with the noise from the radio. Indeed, no one has found much to criticize in the general road-behavior of the big-selling *Volkswagen* and *Renault Dauphine*, which also have rear-mounted engines, and which have proved to possess remarkable ability to get ahead on snowy slopes where the regular American cars have trouble. The *Corvair*, like the *Falcon*, has no hood or fender ornaments; the omission is a most desirable one.

Leg room in the front was adequate, but was not sufficient in the rear. On long trips, back-seat passengers suffered some discomfort from the limited leg space. Headroom, while slightly more than that available in the *Falcon*, was not sufficient for tall persons wearing hats. The designer, by placing the engine in the rear, has eliminated the drive shaft tunnel, and the front and rear floors become almost flat. Thus the *Corvair* when equipped with automatic transmission could actually seat more passengers in the front seat in reasonable comfort than the regular size cars. With the standard transmission, the floor-mounted gearshift lever prevents use of the front seat by more than two persons.

Total luggage space (15.6 cubic feet) was relatively small; part of this was under the front hood, where the spare tire, gas tank, and heater were located, and part behind the rear seat (this is big enough for a good-sized suitcase). A rear seat that folds down is available at extra cost (\$32.30); this can be dropped down to a horizontal position to provide more luggage space when there are only two or three people to be transported. Carrying luggage or parcels in the

rear compartment, however, would present a hazard to the front-seat passengers in the event of a collision. The cardboard-like lining of the luggage space behind the rear seat was of poor quality and considered not likely to stand up well if this space is used frequently for storage of packages or luggage.

Tire pressures on this car must be just right (15 pounds front, 26 pounds rear) and must be held to those values (measured before the tires heat up with driving) to provide good handling and satisfactory riding qualities. The large wrap-around rear window is felt by some to spoil the appearance of this car. Linkages to the clutch and accelerator under the car were not protected, and it would appear they might cause trouble in periods of snow, ice, and slush. There was a hazard to fingers, especially of children, at the openings between the front and rear doors, similar to that of the 1959 *Chevrolet* (see March 1959 *CONSUMER BULLETIN*, page 20). The car is heated by the burning of gasoline in a special kind of heater, which can be operated independently of the car's engine. Cost of operation of the heater is said to be up to 7 cents per hour ($\frac{1}{4}$ gallon of gasoline per hour). In the winter this can reduce gasoline mileage by about 15 percent or from 30 to 25 miles per gallon.

Riding and handling qualities

The *Corvair* was very easy to handle and park, but the floor-mounted gearshift lever was in the opinion of some drivers somewhat too short for easy operation. (In the automatic transmission model, the shift control lever is mounted on the dash and is very easy to operate.) The independent coil suspension on all four wheels provided a much softer ride than that of the *Falcon*; however, on rough roads there was some noise from the bouncing of the wheels of the *Corvair*; most of the road shock was absorbed before it reached the car.

The riding quality was judged good on smooth and moderately rough roads. The seats were not as comfortable as those of the *Falcon*. The car cornered well and was precise and light in handling (power steering is not offered and is not needed). As is to be expected with a rear-engine car that has about 60 percent of its weight on the rear wheels, there was a slight tendency for the rear to "drift" on sharp turns, but this was not considered sufficient to be serious. Entering and leaving the car were somewhat difficult (especially so for older people), partly because of the step-down design, and for the driver because of scant clearance between the bottom of the steering wheel rim and the seat cushion. This lack of clearance also interfered with proper operation of

the foot controls by some drivers. The "dog's leg" of the windshield frame was small and was not a problem.

Performance on road tests

Acceleration times were:

0 to 60 m.p.h., through gears	24.0 sec.
20 to 50 m.p.h., high gear	14.0 sec.
40 to 60 m.p.h., high gear	16.5 sec.

Acceleration was better than that of the *Falcon*, and the car had ample power on hills. (See section on the *Falcon* for comparable acceleration of a 6-cylinder car of one of the regular 1959 models.)

Gasoline mileage under test conditions

At a constant speed of 50 miles per hour, the *Corvair* gave 29.5 miles per gallon of gasoline. Trip mileage at speeds maintained between 45 and 55 miles per hour was 29, and in normal around-town driving, about 25 miles per gallon.

Speedometer errors

At 30 miles per hour, 4 percent fast; at 50 miles

per hour, 2 percent fast. Odometer errors, negligible.

Brakes

Braking was very satisfactory, and needed pedal pressure was light.

* * *

The *Corvair* is tentatively rated *A. Recommended*. Contrary to some competitive advertising of the superiority of the front engine over the rear engine, Consumers' Research does not believe, on present information, that one need hesitate to choose this car because of its unusual engine and engine location. (It's too early, of course, to be sure that any of the newest small cars will not have "bugs" that will present problems especially during the first months of production.) While the *Falcon* for many might be the preferred family car partly because of its lower price (see page 10), we believe Chevrolet's *Corvair* will have more appeal to younger people and to those who prefer a "sportier," "different" type of car.

Ford Falcon

The first impression of the new *Falcon* is that the engineers, though still not exactly in the saddle, may have regained to a degree the position they used to hold before the stylists became the nabobs of Detroit. Good automotive engineers have produced in the *Falcon* a sensible car that seems well suited to today's driving needs. This is not to say that the *Falcon* lacks style, for to our taste it has a very pleasing appearance, and is the better by far for lacking the pointless frills and gadgets which have for so long been present on the larger cars. There are no hood or fender ornaments on the *Falcon* to present a hazard to pedestrians. The car presents a neater, more finished appearance, and looks a lot better without the frills and pointless trim. There is no wrap-around windshield with the accompanying "dog's legs" on which to bump one's knees getting in and out of the car; the windshield gives adequate vision and should afford favorable windshield wiper performance. The flatter windshield should make the insurance companies happy, for replacement cost of the new windshield should be far less than that of the complex curved windshields of the regular line of cars.

Ford is to be complimented for using single instead of dual headlamps on the *Falcon*. Dual headlamps were just a means of making older model cars advertise themselves as out of date. The single headlamps provide better illumination,

and of course at a lower expense to the consumer for upkeep.

Interior space in the *Falcon* is adequate; the headroom and leg room, front and back, are about the same as in the *Ford* standard cars (headroom in the *Falcon* was adequate in the front but somewhat skimpy in the rear for a tall person wearing a hat, and some passengers would have liked more leg room in the rear). Although the width of the *Falcon* is about 7 inches less than the *Ford*, "hiproom" was only about 3 inches less, and there was ample room for six people in the car. The floor tunnels, however, are relatively high, and passengers sitting in the middle would not be comfortable on any long trip. The front seat has foam-rubber padding; the rear seat does not.

Trunk space (23 cubic feet) of the *Falcon* has not been skimpy; most people would find it ample. (The 1960 *Ford* has 33 cubic feet.) The overhead dome light is located between the visors, making it very helpful for map reading; it is turned on when the front doors are opened or by operation of the headlight switch on the instrument panel. *Falcons* are equipped with high temperature thermostats, and hence call for the use of ethylene glycol anti-freeze. (This means an added annual expense, since an ethylene glycol type of anti-freeze costs about two and a half times as much as alcohol for the same degree of protection.) Driver vision was very good, but

SPECIFICATIONS—The 1960 regular line of Chevrolet 6's (Biscayne, Bel Air, and Impala) are included for comparison purposes.

	Chevrolet Corvair	Ford Falcon	Chrysler Valiant	1960 Chevrolet 6
Taxable horsepower	27.3	29.4	27.7	30.4
Taxable weight, pounds	2315	2320	2650 (approx.)	3550
Engine				
Type	6 cyl. horizontally opposed air-cooled	6 cylinders overhead valves	6 cylinders overhead valves	6 cylinders overhead valves
Piston displacement, cubic inches	140	144	170	235.5
Rated maximum horsepower at stated rpm.	80 at 4400	90 at 4000	101 at 4400	135 at 4000
Compression ratio	8 to 1	8.7 to 1	8.5 to 1	8.25 to 1
Cooling system capacity with heater, quarts	air-cooled	9.7	14	18
Chassis and body				
Type	Unit	Unit	Unit	Separate
Wheelbase, inches	108	109.5	106.5	119
Over-all length, inches	180	181.2	184.0	211
Width, inches	66.9	70.0	70.4	81
Height, inches	51.3	54.5	53.3	56
Tires	6.50 x 13	6.00 x 13	6.50 x 13	7.50 x 14
Rear axle ratio	3.55 to 1 (3.89 to 1)	3.1 to 1 (3.56 to 1)	3.55 to 1 (3.23 to 1)	3.55 to 1
Brake area, square inches	121	114	153	186
Turning diameter, feet	39.5	37.7	37.1	40.8
Minimum road clearance, inches	6.0	6.5	N.A.	6.0
Other details				
Battery	12-volt 35-amp.-hr.	12-volt 40-amp.-hr.	12-volt 60-amp.-hr.	12-volt 53-amp.-hr.
Gasoline tank capacity, gallons	11	14	13	20
Curb weight, pounds	2420	2395	N.A.	N.A.
Trunk space, cubic feet	11.3 plus 4.3	23.0	24.9	30

N.A.—Not available

Comparative prices of 4-door sedans

	Base price including federal tax	Transportation charge, western N. J.	Radio	Heater	Automatic transmission	Deluxe trim	Total with standard shift	Total with automatic transmission
Corvair 500	\$2038	\$55	\$54	\$74	\$146	\$11	\$2232	\$2378
Corvair 700	2103	55	54	74	146	11	2297	2443
Falcon	1974	54	54	68	159	66	2216	2375
Valiant V-100	2033	57	59	74	172	—	2223	2395
Valiant V-200	2110	57	59	74	172	—	2300	2472
Rambler American Deluxe	1884	76	58	72	179	—	2090	2269
Rambler American Super	1969	76	58	72	179	—	2175	2354
Chevrolet Biscayne 6	2316	69	54	74	188	—	2513	2701

a larger rear-view mirror would improve the driver's vision toward the rear. Controls on the instrument panel were well lighted and well identified. As with most of today's cars, the less desirable indicating lights are used instead of the oil-pressure gauge and ammeter.

Safety

The rear-mounted gasoline tank is an integral part of the luggage compartment. In the opinion of Consumers' Research, this presents an extra hazard of fire in the event of a rear-end collision. (Cars should, so far as practicable, be made immune to damage to the gasoline tank through the impacts occurring in minor accidents.) Front fenders are bolted on and should be inexpensive (relatively) to replace.

Riding and handling qualities

The *Falcon* was very easy to handle and park. The gearshift lever mounted on the steering post was preferred by women drivers to the floor-mounted gearshift lever of the *Corvair*. (Men may often prefer the floor-mounted shift lever.) Seats were comfortable (both seats and interior appointments were judged to be superior to those of the *Corvair*).

At nominal speeds up to about 60 miles per hour on ordinary and moderately rough roads, riding quality was very good, the ride being definitely on the firm side by comparison with the *Corvair*. The car cornered very well, even on sharp turns, with a minimum of body sway. Steering was light and easy. (Power steering is not offered, nor necessary.) The main criticism of the car was lack of power in climbing hills in high gear. For further details, see "Performance on road tests." Ease of entering and leaving the car was good for young people, but more difficult for older people because of the step-down floor design. The heater was judged to be adequate.

Performance on road tests

Acceleration times were:

	<i>Falcon</i>	'59 <i>Ford 6</i>
0 to 60 m.p.h., through gears	26.5 sec.	20.1 sec.
20 to 50 m.p.h., high gear	16.0 sec.	14.5 sec.
40 to 60 m.p.h., high gear	17.0 sec.	12.1 sec.

Noticeably slower in acceleration than the 1959 *Ford 6* with its 145-horsepower engine and considerably slower than the 1959 V-8's many of which had unnecessarily high acceleration, but slow acceleration must be expected if economy in use of gasoline is to be achieved. This car had a noticeable lack of power on hills, neces-

sitating shifting down to a lower gear. The lack of hill-climbing power is the result of the relatively numerically low 3.1 to 1 rear-axle ratio used to obtain good gasoline economy (a 3.56-to-1-ratio axle, for better acceleration, is available as optional equipment).

Gasoline mileage under test conditions

At a constant true speed of 50 miles per hour, the *Falcon* gave 31 miles per gallon. (1959 *Ford 6* gave about 19½ miles per gallon.) Trip mileage at speeds between 45 and 55 miles per hour was 29 miles per gallon, and in normal around-town driving, 26 miles per gallon. A second new *Falcon* gave 25 miles per gallon at a constant speed of 50 miles per hour. (This second car had been driven only 100 miles at the time of the test and it was apparent that the engine was very tight.)

Speedometer errors

At 30 miles per hour, about 4 percent fast. Odometer was about correct.

Brakes

Braking was satisfactory; pedal pressure required was very light.

* * *

The *Falcon* is tentatively rated *A. Recommended*. It was judged to be a well-built car, suitable not only as a second car but as the main car for the family if not more than four adults are to be carried on long trips (five could be carried for shorter runs). Those who object to frequent shifting of gears or who will do much driving in hilly country would do well to consider the optional 3.56-to-1 rear axle, even though gasoline mileage will be reduced.

NOTE: At the time this article was written, the *Chrysler Valiant* was not available and no specifications or data were available on the *Comet*, said to be in production by the Mercury Division of the Ford Motor Company. These cars, along with other competing American cars, such as the *Rambler American*, *Rambler*, and *Studebaker Lark*, will be tested as soon as Consumers' Research can obtain them from dealers.

The *Dodge Dart*, which is not a compact car but competitive with *Chevrolet*, *Ford*, and *Plymouth* regular size cars, will be tested along with the latter class of American cars. These tests are proceeding as rapidly as possible; on account of the serious effects of the steel strike on automobile manufacture, difficulties are being encountered in obtaining cars for test. Delays in car deliveries are pretty likely to continue for several months after steel production is resumed.



Women's sweaters

EVERY woman nowadays has at least one sweater in her wardrobe. In addition to the classic cardigan which remains popular year in and year out, she may have one dressmaker style that can be worn as a blouse. Regardless of the kind of sweater she buys, a woman will want to have one that will retain its good appearance with use and cleaning. How well a sweater will do this depends in part on the character of the yarn and in part on its construction.

The fiber most commonly used for women's sweaters is Orlon, a synthetic acrylic fiber made by the du Pont Company. You will find "Taranlan," "Luxura," "Willowspun," and "Hi-bulk Turbo." All are Orlon yarns. The first three descriptive terms are trade names used by the companies making the sweaters—Talbot, Helen Harper, and Garland, respectively. "Hi-bulk Turbo," used by Sears, is derived from the method of processing the yarn on a machine called a "Turbo Stapler."

The properties of Orlon make it particularly adaptable for use in sweaters. The yarn is fairly uniform; it can be dyed in a wide range of clear

shades; it can be readily knit into sweaters that, if properly constructed, have "dimensional stability" and will therefore neither shrink nor stretch appreciably. These general properties are characteristic of the different kinds of Orlon yarns.

Sweaters of fur-fiber-blend yarns are fashionable this year. Some labels indicate that mink hairs are present, but generally the fiber is simply identified as "fur blend." These sweaters have an attractive appearance, but are not so easily cared for as those made from Orlon.

Other yarns used in sweaters include *Ban-Lon*, a textured nylon yarn, a trademarked product of Joseph Bancroft and Sons. The company "polices" the use of the yarn and gives quality and performance tests to selected samples of garments made with it. *Tycora* is also a textured nylon yarn. Unlike *Ban-Lon*, which is a yarn made by one process only, *Tycora* is a general trade name for all processed yarns made by the Textured Yarn Company. The company makes both a smooth and a bouclé yarn for sweaters.

Women are usually familiar with the differences in the handling required by sweaters made from

the different fibers. They know that wool sweaters will have to be washed with care and dried flat, with some "blocking." Sweaters made of synthetic fibers, such as Orlon, can usually, though not always, be washed in a washing machine and dried at low temperatures in an automatic dryer (even if hand washing is recommended).

The construction of a sweater may be as important a factor as the yarn in making for good performance. A "full-fashioned" sweater is one that has been knit flat and shaped by increasing or decreasing the number of stitches in the armhole, sleeves, and elsewhere. Fashion marks on a full-fashioned sweater can be easily seen at the armhole (see illustration), although they will be present at other places also. Mock fashion marks are sometimes sewed into cut-and-sewed sweaters (see illustration). Full-fashioned sweaters are usually fabricated before dyeing.

Cut-and-sewed sweaters are made from a piece of tubular knitted fabric that is usually dyed before being made into sweaters. Jersey knit or interlock knit are commonly used. (Interlock fabric has the same appearance on both sides.) Pieces for the sweater are cut from the knitted yardage according to a pattern, just as clothes are cut from woven yard goods. Though some cut-and-sewed sweaters may be of good quality and high style, the cut-and-sew method is much used in the making of low-priced sweaters. If the cutting is done carefully, the sweaters will retain their shape; if not, the sweaters will sag and twist. Careless cutting may show up anywhere, but it is most easily observed at the front opening where the wales (lengthwise ribs) should run parallel to the front opening.

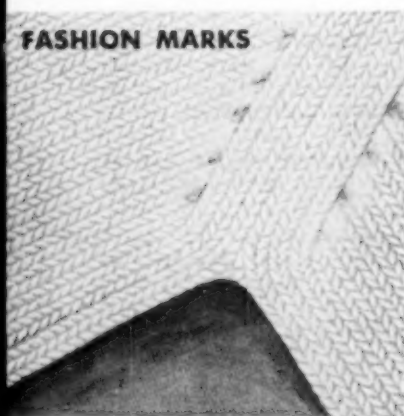
Cut-and-sewed sweaters should have seams that are stitched securely and covered to keep the cut edges of the fabric from raveling. The

usual seam is a merrowed seam which has closely spaced covering stitches to prevent the knitted fabric from raveling. This stitch is stiffer and less elastic than the overlocked seam often used on full-fashioned sweaters, but it can be durable and serviceable nevertheless.

All sweaters purchased for test were examined for construction details. In this part of the study, some surprising things were found. One sweater, marked size 38, for example, turned out to have sleeves of two different sizes. (See illustration.) On another sweater, a bulky simulated hand knit, the buttonholes were unevenly spaced. In general, however, construction of the sweaters was found to be good.

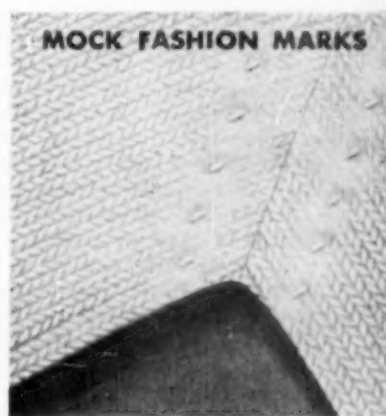
To see if the sweaters fit their wearers correctly, a check list suggested in a United States Department of Agriculture bulletin was followed. The list would be helpful to anyone wishing to judge the fit of a sweater.

1. Does the neck lie smooth and flat, so that it fits one's neck snugly and does not ride up? [The double labels—store labels and maker's labels—sewed inside at the neck make for bulkiness. In removing the labels, take care not to snip a yarn of the sweater. Some knits will run.]
2. Are the shoulder seams well placed? Do the shoulders sag?
3. Are the sleeves set neatly into the armholes? Do they pull at the shoulder?
4. Do the sleeves have ample width, especially through the upper arms, and have a slight ease that will keep them from working up?
5. Does the rib knit on the sleeves and the lower edge of the sweater have some elasticity and fit easily around the arms and the body?
6. Does the body of the sweater have a slight fullness?
7. Are the buttons and buttonholes correctly



←
Fashion marks look like this. Note that the stitches between them are parallel to the seam.

→
Mock fashion marks are made by stitching two rows of imitation marks at the arm seam.



Illustrations courtesy of E. I. duPont de Nemours & Co., Inc.



This sweater, the Garland, had sleeves of two different sizes. A second sample did not have this fault.

matched in size? Are they placed so that the front opening stays neatly closed?

8. Is the line around the lower edge of a cardigan even?

In studies at Consumers' Research, the sweaters were worn and then washed, according to the manufacturers' recommendations, except as noted in the listings. When the manufacturer indicated that the sweater "washed like a dream," it was assumed that machine washing and drying was indicated on the grounds that no woman would dream of washing a sweater by hand if she didn't have to. The effects of the launderings on shrinkage, texture, and color were noted, as well as any tendency of the garments to shrink or stretch out of shape, and of the fabric to pill. Ribbon bandings and stitching thread were observed for shrinking and loss of color.

The principal problem encountered in laundering was with the fur-blend and brushed-finish sweaters. The fur-blend sweaters required hand washing. One of them, the *Darlene*, required careful shaping and took a long time to dry (about 24 hours). The brushed-finish Orlon sweater, *Boepple*, required brushing after each laundering to maintain good appearance. A soft, metal-bristled brush was found to be most useful for this purpose; it took about three minutes to brush the sweater back into a satisfactory appearance.

All the other sweaters were buttoned, turned inside out, and machine washed in warm water, then dried in an automatic electric dryer at the low-temperature setting, with satisfactory results. Occasionally pre-spotting or special cleaning, as of especially soiled sleeve areas, was required. *Blairmoor*, *Garland*, and *Talbott* sweaters kept their good appearance with the least trouble in laundering. The *Kerrybrooke*, while easy to care for, pilled slightly.

The sweaters bought for the test were in the price range of \$3 to \$13, in order to provide a comparison of construction and general quality between sweaters sold at different prices. The \$3 Orlon sweater was obtained at mail-order from Montgomery Ward which also sells Orlon sweaters for women at more than \$10. A fur-blend sweater selling at \$5 and one selling at \$13 were also included.

Listings are in alphabetic order within the rating groups.

A. Recommended

Blairmoor (Blairmoor Knitting Corp., 1410 Broadway, New York 18) \$8.22. Fine knit, plain stitch. *Superbulk Ban-Lon*, textured nylon yarn. Beige. Full-fashioned cardigan with collar and long sleeves. Laundering instructions: "By machine. . . Wash. . . at lowest temperature setting for shortest cycle."

A well-made sweater generally, but buttonholes were poorly made, with uncut threads which tended to catch on the buttons and made unbuttoning difficult. The sweater fitted well and kept its shape well. Yarn had a tendency to snag on rough surfaces, even rough skin of the hands.

Boepple (Boepple Sportswear Mills, Inc., 1410 Broadway, New York 18) \$9.22. Fine interlock knit. "100% Orlon acrylic fiber," brushed finish. Camel color. Cut-and-sewed cardigan with long sleeves. No laundering instructions were given.

A well-made sweater that fitted well. Front opening not even (off about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. at lower edge). Required brushing after each laundering.

Darlene (Darlene Knitwear, Inc., 1407 Broadway, New York 18) \$12.95. Fine knit, plain stitch. "Mink-lam: 70% lambswool, 18% fur fibers, 2% mink, 10% nylon." Brown. Full-fashioned cardigan with collar and $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves. "Hand washable in cold or lukewarm water."

A well-made sweater that fitted well and kept its shape well, but only with careful shaping and blocking after each laundering. Took a long time to dry. Sleeve bands lost their elasticity noticeably by tenth laundering.

Garland (Garland Knitting Mills, Inc., 1410 Broadway, New York 18) \$9.95. Fine knit, plain stitch. "Willow-spun, Orlon, duPont acrylic fiber." Lake blue. Full-fashioned cardigan with collar, and $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves. "Machine washable."

A well-made sweater that fitted well and kept its shape well. Sleeve bands tended to be somewhat inelastic.

Kerrybrooke (Sears-Roebuck's Cat. No. 7-9297) \$6.97, plus postage. Fine knit, plain stitch. Hi-bulk Turbo Orlon yarn. Medium beige. Full-fashioned cardigan with collar and $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves. "Hand washable in lukewarm water with mild soap," but was machine washed and partly dried in an automatic dryer through part of the test.

A well-made sweater on the whole, though one sleeve had a dropped stitch. Fitted well; kept its shape well.

Began to pill after fifth wearing and laundering, but pilling was not considered objectionable after fifteenth laundering.

Talbott (Talbott, Inc., 1407 Broadway, New York 18) \$9.98. Fine knit, plain stitch. "Taran" Orlon acrylic fiber with Duratane. Brown. Full-fashioned cardigan with collar and $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves. "Machine washable."

A well-made sweater that fitted well and kept its shape well. One buttonhole pulled out after the third laundering.

B. Intermediate

Exmoor (Exmoor Knitwear Co., Inc., 1407 Broadway, New York 18) \$7.95. Fine knit, interlock stitch. "Tycora" textured nylon. Spruce green. A cut-and-sewed cardigan with collar and rib knit bracelet length sleeves. "Hand washable in lukewarm water with mild soap," but the sweater was machine washed in the test (see text).

A well-made sweater that fitted well. Began to pill on arms and sides (where sleeves rubbed the body of the sweater) after five laundings. Was shaved (with a safety razor); was pilled badly again after eleventh laundering.

Furmode (Fleetwood Sportswear, Inc.; Montgomery Ward's Cat. No. SA4125) \$4.98, plus postage. 65% lamb's wool, 20% fur fibers, 15% nylon. Beige. Fine knit, plain stitch. A cut-and-sewed cardigan with collar and full-length sleeves. "Hand wash separately."

A loosely woven sweater with little elasticity in the rib knit of the sleeves. Dried quickly compared with the other fur-blend sweater tested. Shed fibers noticeably after eleventh laundering.



The buttonholes of this sweater, the Helen Harper, were out of line and unevenly spaced.

Helen Harper, No. 660 (Helen Harper Sweaters, 1372 Broadway, New York 18) \$8.98. "Luxura" "pill-resistant" Orlon. Blue. Coarse-knit patterned stitch. Cut-and-sewed cardigan with collar and $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves. "Washes like a dream"; was machine washed.

Fitted well and kept its shape well. Had a number of faults: The front opening was not even, some buttons were out of line, buttonholes were not well made, some dropped stitches. Grosgrain ribbon was of different character from body of sweater and remained wet long after the body of the sweater was dry and tended to shrink.

C. Not Recommended

Fleetwood (Fleetwood Sportswear, Inc.; Montgomery Ward's Cat. No. SA4132) \$2.98, plus postage. Orlon. Blue. Fine knit, plain stitch. A cut-and-sewed cardigan (with mock fashion marks) with collar and short sleeves. "Washable . . . may be machine washed . . . use mild . . . detergent and warm water."

A fairly well-made sweater, but was small for marked size. Retained its shape fairly well but shrank $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. Thread around buttonholes lost color noticeably after four laundings.

A new cookware can be used for cooking, serving, and storing foods

ALTHOUGH there is no perfect cooking ware, there are some materials that prove to be more satisfactory in household use than others.

Consumers' Research has long advised consumers not to purchase cooking ware in complete sets, for such sets are very often a most uneconomical purchase.

The housewife who has resisted the impulse to buy a whole galaxy of utensils from the door-to-door salesman may be happy to add to her collection one of the new pans made of a glass-like but tough and heat-resistant material called *Pyroceram*, developed by the Corning Glass Company.

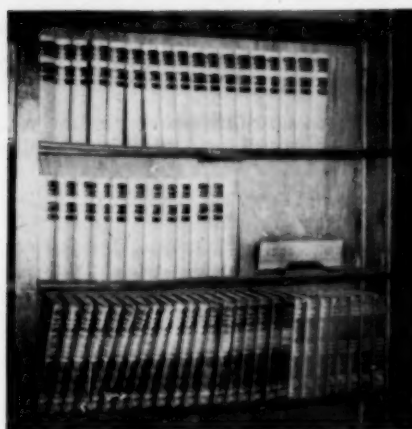
Pyroceram was produced to provide a super-strength ceramic material for use in the nose cones of guided missiles. That may seem a far cry from

the kitchen range, but *Pyroceram* does have one remarkable quality for a glass-like material—an exceptionally high resistance to injury by heat.

This enables the housewife to cook food in a *Pyroceram* pan, and take the whole thing, saucepan, food, and all, from the stove and put it, if she is pressed for time, directly into the freezing compartment of her refrigerator or her freezer. This same pan can come directly from the freezer to the top-of-the-stove burner (or the oven) for heating. Consumers' Research found that you could also boil water in a *Corning Ware Pyroceram* pan, and then plunge the pan into ice water without cracking or crazing the *Pyroceram*. We see no reason why these *Corning Ware* utensils, un-

(Concluded on page 18)

Which encyclopedia should I buy for my children?



SHOULD parents purchase an encyclopedia for their children? If so, which encyclopedia is the best buy? These are not easy questions to answer, for which encyclopedia, if any, to purchase depends on many things which vary with each family: money available; number of children; reading abilities, grade levels, and study habits of the children; and interest of the whole family in learning and in books. The following are points which parents might advantageously consider in attempting to answer these questions.

First, the parent should realize that mere purchase of an encyclopedia will not improve a child's grades any more than the purchase of a grand piano to practice music lessons on will make one a concert musician. (A 25-cent pocket book warmly applied to the seat of Junior's pants on occasion might do more good than a \$200 encyclopedia applied to the bookshelf.) If a child is behind at school, it might be wiser for a parent to spend more time on helping the child to study or to spend money on a few private coaching lessons than to spend money on expensive books. If the child is willing to study and is interested or can be interested in books, and if the parents are willing to help the child use an encyclopedia, then certainly an encyclopedia can prove of value to the child, for it gives additional explanations and a broader background to his textbooks and provides an "at home" source of material for many assignments.

Next, the parents should be aware that an encyclopedia, like an automobile, gets out of date. Many librarians figure on 10 years as the life of an encyclopedia—not because it wears out, but because the facts in it become less and less useful with the passage of time. For example, if one purchased an encyclopedia in 1949, hundreds of facts are now available about which it contains nothing: the 1950 census, the Korean conflict, Eisenhower as President, artificial satellites, etc. Most worth-while encyclopedias do publish an annual volume or yearbook to keep the basic set up to date, but eventually this puts a heavy

burden on the user, since in 10 years there are 11 places (the original set plus 10 yearbooks) to look for information instead of one. Consequently, the parent should not buy an "adult" encyclopedia for an eight- or 10-year-old with the idea that it will last him through college.

Third, the parent should consider the reading ability and grade level of his offspring in deciding which encyclopedia to purchase. For one child, this is not much of a problem; for four or five, it can be an impossible problem. Generally, a child will find the most need for an encyclopedia during the last five or six years of school, which include the high school period. Perhaps the best bet is to try to hit the needs and abilities of the two oldest children and let the others grow into the encyclopedia. If the oldest two are in the ninth and eleventh grades, then a "middle" or "high school" encyclopedia would be best. If the oldest has finished public school, but is enrolled at a community junior or senior college and lives at home, then an adult encyclopedia might serve the family best. The parents, in selecting a set, might determine whether they themselves will make much use of the set. If so, an "adult" set might be the best buy, even though the children are not quite ready for it.

Fourth, the parents should determine how much money they can put into an encyclopedia. The "best buy" is to purchase only the basic set in the cheapest binding. The extras which a salesman may try to high pressure one into are many: a dictionary, an atlas, picture books for the younger children, etc. (similar items can usually be purchased at bookstores more cheaply); a reference service which permits one to write to the publisher to have questions answered (most people don't use the service after the first year or so, and probably few buyers will get their money's worth from it); a special bookcase or book rack; or a long-term subscription to the annual (not much saving over the price charged when it is ordered each year). If the salesman offers to give the set free if you will show it to others in the

neighborhood, go slow, and don't believe in his proposition; there's sure to be a gimmick of some kind in it. He probably wants you to buy the yearbook and other services at \$30 a year for the next 10 years. Most publishers will sell the basic set without extras on some sort of installment plan, but check the cash price versus the installment price—you may find that you might do better to borrow from a bank and pay cash.

Some do not wish to put \$100 or more into an encyclopedia because they fear that it will not be of that much value to the children. These persons might do well to look for a used set. Most encyclopedias are classed as subscription books and so are not sold through bookstores, but some used-book dealers handle used sets—several advertise in the classified section of the widely circulated New York Times Book Review. Individuals wishing to sell sets frequently advertise in the classified section of large city newspapers. Before buying a used set, make sure that the dealer agrees in writing to replace any missing or mutilated pages and check for these immediately upon receipt of the books. The newer the set, the more it will cost on the used-book market, but it is usually unwise to buy a set more than three or four years old, because of the problem of out-of-date material. Encyclopedias no longer have edition numbers—the best are continuously, though perhaps not extensively, revised, and a new, unnumbered edition is published each year—so that the latest copyright date on the back of the title page is the year of the encyclopedia. A good one-volume encyclopedia might serve in many homes as an inexpensive, but less useful, substitute for a multi-volume set.

Since an encyclopedia cannot be adequately judged for your needs and interests from the one or two sample volumes shown by a salesman, the best way to determine which to buy is to examine several complete sets at a library that has a number of different sets of fairly recent date. (Some, such as *Americana*, have made extensive changes in make-up during the last two or three years, and should not be judged by older sets.) To compare the various sets, look up your city and your state; try to find how well the answer is given to some recent assignment which your child has had; compare the articles on algebra, grammar, physics, chemistry, or weights and measures or measurements; note the binding, printing, and make-up; and compare the number, type, and clearness of the pictures used in the articles you read. One would do well to let his child read from each encyclopedia and then question him to see how well he comprehends the vocabulary used, but don't let him talk you into a too-young set because it is "real easy to read." A few new and

difficult words will arouse his interest and improve his mind, but too many will make for hard reading and so dampen his interest in reading.

Some 30 different well-known encyclopedias are available in the U.S. The list below includes only those listed in the Wilson Standard Catalogs [1], widely circulated book selection aids much utilized by librarians. The sets recommended in these Catalogs are recognized good buys because of the excellent writing, the fine physical quality of the books, the policy of continuous revision which means that the basic set is up-to-date whenever it is purchased, and the availability of yearbooks. Cheaper sets, perhaps as store premiums, may tempt, but one will do well to hesitate before buying any encyclopedia that seems to be a great bargain. First, figure the total cost—the first volume may be only 10 cents, but the next 19 may be \$2.98 each, for a total of \$56.72. Next, compare. If the set totals less than \$75 in price, compare with *Lincoln Library*—note the number of pages, the length of articles, and the binding in particular. If the "cheaper" set ranges from \$75 to \$175, compare with *World Book*; if \$175 up, compare with *Americana* or *Britannica*. Such comparisons usually lead to the conclusion that cheaper sets are not big bargains after all; often they may be very poor books, notable for their lack of scholarship and authority.

Encyclopedias

Listed in approximate order of reading difficulty. [2]

Prices of specific sets depend on type of binding, extras, method of purchase, etc. Firm prices for some encyclopedias are difficult to obtain; cash prices differ from credit prices and a salesman may quote one or the other without explanation. Prices given are the most recent ones available to Consumers' Research.

Britannica Junior (Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., 425 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11) 15 vols., \$149.90; grades 4 through 8.

Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia (F. E. Compton & Co., 1000 N. Dearborn St., Chicago) 15 vols., \$149.50-\$179.50; annuals, \$2.95 each; elementary grades well into high school.

World Book Encyclopedia (Field Enterprises Educational Corp., Merchandise Mart Plaza, Chicago 54)

[1] Standard Catalog for High School Libraries, 7th ed. New York, The H. W. Wilson Co., 1957; Children's Catalog, 9th ed. New York, The H. W. Wilson Co., 1956. These publications, which give brief descriptions of the books listed, may be found at school and public libraries. Ask also for the twice a month magazine *The Booklist* and Subscription Books Bulletin (published by the American Library Association) which gives long, critical reviews of encyclopedias from time to time.

[2] To broaden their market, the publishers of some encyclopedias formerly known as "high school" or "adult" sets now advertise that articles are written so that interest level and readability are coordinated; for example, the explanation of fractions can supposedly be understood by a fifth grader, chemistry by a tenth grader, etc. However, the overall reading difficulty for the average student was considered in arranging the list.

19 vols., \$129-\$169; annuals (paper bound), \$1.50 each; junior high into junior college.

Collier's Encyclopedia (P. F. Collier & Son Corp., 640 Fifth Ave., New York 19) 20 vols., \$240.50-\$444; annuals, \$10 each [3]; high school and up.

Encyclopedia Americana (Encyclopedia Americana, 4606 East-West Highway, Washington 14, D.C.) 30 vols., \$319.50-\$600; annuals, \$12 each [3]; upper high school and up.

Encyclopaedia Britannica (Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.) 24 vols., \$378-\$1250; annuals, \$12 each [3]; for good readers in upper high school and up.

One-volume encyclopedias

Of the two one-volume encyclopedias, *The Lincoln Library* is better for most school uses because of its arrangement.

The Lincoln Library of Essential Information (Frontier Press Co., Lafayette Bldg., Buffalo 3, N.Y.) 2176 pages, \$27-\$38; junior high and up; arranged by "broad topics" so that all material on mathematics, for example, comes together; has full index.

[3] Usually, with the purchase of a new set, the yearbook may be purchased at about half price for the first 5 or 10 years.

[4] A five-volume edition with minor changes is available from Parents' Magazine's Education Press at \$57.50. A condensed edition called "The Columbia-Viking Desk Encyclopedia," containing about 45 percent of the facts in 1/6th as many words as in the full volume and useful only for finding brief facts about a subject, has been published by Viking Press, Inc., New York, at \$7.95 to \$12.50. "The Columbia" has been offered by Book of the Month Club.

The Columbia Encyclopedia (Columbia University Press, 2960 Broadway, New York 27) 2348 pages, \$35; high school and up. [4]

Reference books

If one does not wish to invest in an encyclopedia, but would like to purchase an inexpensive book or two to help his high school boy or girl with a difficult subject of study, he might consider the following:

"The Made Simple Books," such as **"Biology Made Simple,"** etc. (Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, L.I., N.Y.) \$1 each, paper bound.

"High School Subjects Self Taught," edited by **Lewis Copeland** (Doubleday & Co., Inc.) Rev. ed., \$4.95.

"College Outlines" series, such as **"English Composition,"** etc. (Barnes & Noble, Inc., 105 Fifth Ave., New York 3) 50c and up.

These titles may be found at most large book stores.

* * *

This article was prepared by W. T. Johnston, Librarian of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Tifton, Georgia. Mr. Johnston uses this discussion to answer "Which encyclopedia should I buy for my children?"—a question parents ask him a good many times each year.



A new cookware can be used for cooking, serving, and storing foods

(The beginning of this article is on page 15)

less dropped from a height to a hard floor, should not have a long and trouble-free life in daily use in the home.

In appearance, *Pyroceram* looks not unlike white porcelainware. The 1 quart, 1½ quart, and 1¾ quart size saucepans, and the 10-inch-square all-purpose skillet all have a white-with-blue-flower pattern that is a part of the material and does not scratch off. The pans have lids of *Pyrex* or *Pyroceram* and are sold with a removable handle. One handle will fit all four dishes. The Corning Company also sells a brass-plated wire cradle for the 10-inch dish and another one of a size that fits three of the saucepans.

The new pans are not inexpensive. A 1-quart saucepan with *Pyrex* cover and handle (No.

P-11-1) sells at \$5.95. A stainless-steel copper-bottom pan of a well-known make and of the same size now sells at \$4.95. Many people, however, would hesitate bringing the stainless-steel pan to the table, but it is entirely practicable to use the *Corning Ware* in this way, because of its attractive appearance.

A. Recommended

Corning Ware (Corning Glass Works, Corning, N.Y.) \$5.95. Item tested was P-11-1 1-qt. saucepan of white *Pyroceram* decorated with blue flower pattern, with clear *Pyrex* glass cover, and handle. This ware is "unconditionally guaranteed against breakage from temperature extremes."



Electric blankets

THE ACTION of an electric blanket is very different from that of an electric heating pad. The latter appliance becomes noticeably warm to the touch and is intended for local application of heat. An electric blanket functions mainly to supply just the small amount of heat which is lost from the body of the person under it. The blanket in operation will rarely feel warm to a hand placed on the top or exposed side on the bed. Any non-electric blanket keeps the body warm by forming an insulating barrier between the body and the colder room air. The colder the air the thicker the layer of insulation needed to prevent loss of too much body heat to the air. In cold climates, two or more blankets are used to provide the necessary insulation.

Ideally, an electric blanket should be capable of maintaining a constant preselected temperature underneath, regardless of any wide fluctuations in room temperature. The Simmons Company, several years ago, did manufacture a blanket with a temperature-sensing element in the blanket itself, connected to an electronic circuit in the control box. This blanket came closer to keeping under-blanket temperature constant with variations in room temperature than any tested since by Consumers' Research. Unfortunately the complicated control circuit had a habit of getting out of order. Servicing became a major problem. The Simmons Company thereafter dropped the manufacture of electric blankets.

The blankets tested in 1959 did not contain any device in the blankets themselves to maintain a constant temperature under conditions of varying room temperature. An approximation to the desired temperature under the blanket is accomplished by setting the control at a figure which has been found by experience to give satisfactory results at the customary room temperature at a given time of the year. The blankets all contained thermostats, but they are not there to hold a constant temperature; their function is to cut off

the current if the blanket gets too hot, and they also provide protection against a fire that might be caused by some failure or malfunctioning in the heating element circuit.

The control unit which determines the temperature condition established by the blanket usually contains an on-off switch and a dial by which the under-blanket temperatures are selected.

Despite startling advances in electronic circuits and components in the last few years, a trouble-free electronic "modern design" has not developed, and most electric blankets now offered conform to the same working principles as heretofore.

All except the GE among the ones tested by Consumers' Research used the bimetallic temperature control element in the control box, with simple and inexpensive bimetallic thermostats in the blanket itself to guard against the possibility of local overheating. GE also uses the bimetallic thermostatic temperature control element but have a different system for prevention of local overheating in the blanket. With their system, the somewhat bulky thermostats are eliminated (in other blankets at least nine were used).

Care of blankets

The blankets tested did not contain wool, though a number contained cotton, and all contained one or more synthetic fibers. Thus the new electric blankets do solve the problem of moth damage which was often a difficulty with wool blankets. The use of cotton and synthetic fibers has, moreover, simplified laundry problems; all but two of the blankets tested could be machine washed, and three of them could be partially dried in an automatic dryer, according to the makers' instructions. Although in recent years electrical insulating materials have been improved, and some may be relatively immune to damage by cleaning solvents, it is still wise not to have an electric blanket dry cleaned. Never pin an electric blanket to the bed, and do not stick pins or needles into it under

any circumstances; you may injure the insulation or the heater wiring and create a hazard in future use of the blanket. Never fold the blanket while it is in use or allow it to become rumpled or twisted; to do so may cause the development of "hot spots," and if it should happen that the hot spot is not near or at one of the protective thermostats, the temperature locally might go so high as to be a source of danger or even start a fire. Because of uncertainties regarding possible local development of high temperatures, one should never use an electric blanket on an infant, or on an ill, injured, or unconscious person who may be insensitive to heat. It is most important that anyone who buys an electric blanket should read carefully and in detail the instruction sheet that comes with it before using it or having it laundered.

Servicing of electric blankets

The need for frequent service, the delays in servicing, and the high cost of competent servicing have been the causes of serious complaint with regard to electric blankets. Frequently a one-year-old blanket that cost \$25 has failed and the owner has been informed that a replacement blanket is needed at a cost of "only \$20." Some manufacturers have been aware of the discouraging results of consumer experience with high cost of blanket servicing and now provide service covered by a guarantee period up to 5 years. The maximum guarantee of blankets tested was 2 years, except for the \$4, "Lifetime," *St. Marys* guarantee.

Consumers' Research advises that, in view of the potential fire and shock hazards involved, the user of an electric blanket should take steps immediately to replace or have serviced any electric blanket which has any sort of electrical defect.

CR's tests

Since there are no accepted specification requirements for electric blankets, Consumers' Research has utilized its past experience with them to arrive at methods of evaluation. It has, besides, utilized some of the tests and standards set up by the Underwriters' Laboratories governing the important factors of safety from fires and electric

shock. After tests for leakage current, which is a measure of the likelihood that the blanket may cause a shock to the person using it, were carried out, each blanket was immersed in a brine solution. A potential of 1230 volts alternating current was then applied, between the wiring of the blanket and the metal container holding the immersed blanket. The purpose of this test is to subject the wiring and insulation to overstress such as that which would be due to the occasional voltage peaks that occur on all power lines and to detect any failure which may occur with deterioration of insulation with time and use. Two of the blankets tested failed in this test. They were the *St. Marys* and the *Treasure Chest*.

The blankets were folded and placed between thick cloth pads and allowed to heat until the overheat protection systems functioned to cut off the current. The temperature at the center fold of the blanket at which the thermostat cut off the current was measured. This temperature ranged from 120°F on the *GE* to 165°F on the *Westinghouse* and *Casco*. Such a temperature would be uncomfortable but well below that sufficient to start a fire. The blankets were washed and dried according to instructions. Controls were tested in a cold room (50°F) to see whether they cycled correctly; power consumption and running time were determined. It was found that the controls for the *Harmony House*, *Northern*, and *Universal* were essentially identical, as were controls for the *Casco* and *Fieldcrest*. Measured watts were practically the same as rated watts in all cases except the *GE* blanket, as noted in the listing.

An interesting feature of some of the new blankets is the adjustable contour corner. Only the *GE* had permanently sewed contour corners at the foot of the blanket. The other contour brands had snaps to form corners in case the homeowner wished to use the blanket in that way. (See Figure 1.) The contour corners are useful in keeping the blanket from sliding off the bed during the night. (An electric blanket should not be tucked in and should not be folded over on itself in the area that contains wiring.)

The binding is usually the first part of any

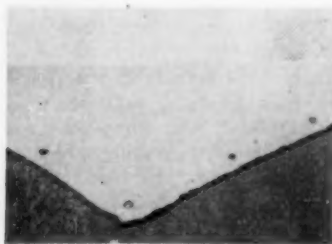
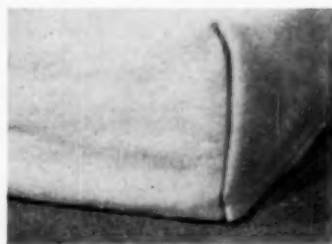


Figure 1—Adjustable-contour blankets can be used flat, in the usual way, or made into contour blankets by snapping the corners together to form a snug corner.



blanket to become shabby. All of the blankets tested, except the *Westinghouse* and *Universal*, had nylon bindings. The two mentioned above had acetate bindings. Nylon will probably be the more durable material; Sears guarantees their nylon binding for the life of the blanket material itself, with free replacement if bindings wear out within that time.

As stated before, none of the blankets tested will maintain the preselected under-blanket temperature with wide variations in room temperatures. However, the blankets which are recommended will provide sleeping comfort for those who become familiar with the operation of the appliance.

All of the blankets tested were listed (approved) by the Underwriters' Laboratories.

Cost of operating an electric blanket will run about \$1 per month for the 180-watt blankets and somewhat less for the 140-watt models. Unless otherwise stated in the listings, controls were well illuminated for convenient operation in a dark room.

Prices given are list, when the list price is known. Actual prices paid by Consumers' Research at various department and discount stores are given in parentheses.

A. Recommended

Casco Custom King's Crest B1801 (Casco Products Corp., Bridgeport 2, Conn.) (\$25.85) Adjustable-contour blanket, labeled rayon, cotton, Acrilan. Size, 84 in. long by 72 in. wide. Weight, 4 lb. 180 watts. Leakage current from the wet blanket to the brine solution (a measure of shock hazard), 0.3 ma. (satisfactorily low). Nine sewed-in thermostats were used to provide protection against overheating. Wires in blanket had tendency to loop at ends. Could be machine washed but only line dried. Figures on control were hard to read in a dark room. 2-yr. guarantee.

Fieldcrest Gold Crown B-12328-38 (Fieldcrest Mills, Inc., Spray, N.C.) (\$22.16) Adjustable-contour blanket (see picture, page 20), labeled rayon, cotton, and Orlon. Size, 87 in. long by 81 in. wide. Weight, 4 lb. 10 oz. 180 watts. Leakage current, 0.4 ma. (satisfactorily low). Nine sewed-in thermostats were used to provide protection against overheating. The manufacturer's instructions permit the blanket to be machine washed, but it is to be dried only on a clothesline. 2-yr. guarantee, but the blanket has to be returned to the store where it was purchased, for service under the guarantee.

General Electric BA1B22-BA1C22 (General Electric Co., Bridgeport 2, Conn.) \$34 (\$24). Fixed-contour blanket, labeled rayon-cotton. Size, 76 in. long by 74 in. wide. Weight, 4 lb. 2 oz. 190 watts (215 watts, measured). Leakage current, 0.4 ma. (satisfactory). This blanket utilized *GE Sleep-Guard* circuit for protection against overheating instead of the usual sewed-in thermostats. Instructions permit this blanket to be washed and partially dried by machine. Figures on

control were hard to read in a dark room. 1-yr. guarantee.

Harmony House (Sears-Roebuck's Cat. No. 96-7137) (\$21.97) Adjustable-contour blanket, labeled rayon, cotton, and Acrilan. Size, 85½ in. long by 72½ in. wide. Weight, 4 lb. 4 oz. 180 watts. Leakage current, 0.4 ma. (satisfactory). This blanket had 11 thermostats to provide protection against overheating, two more than any of the others (desirable). Wires in blanket had tendency to loop at ends. Instructions permit this blanket to be washed and partially dried by machine. 2-yr. guarantee.

Northern 991 (Northern Electric Co., Chicago 25) \$32 (\$23.73). Adjustable-contour blanket, labeled Acrilan, rayon, cotton. Size, 84½ in. long by 81 in. wide. Weight, 4 lb. 12 oz. 180 watts. Leakage current, 0.3 ma. (satisfactory). Nine sewed-in thermostats were used to provide protection against overheating. Instructions recommend that the blanket be washed only by hand and dried on the line. Figures on control were hard to read in a dark room. 2-yr. guarantee.

Universal 7674B (Landers, Frary & Clark, New Britain, Conn.) \$25 (\$18.22). Regular-style (not contour) blanket, labeled rayon, cotton, and nylon. Size, 84 in. long by 74 in. wide. Weight, 3 lb. 10 oz. 180 watts. Leakage current, 0.3 ma. (satisfactory). Nine sewed-in thermostats were used to provide protection against overheating. Instructions recommend that the blanket be washed by hand and dried on the line. 1-yr. guarantee.

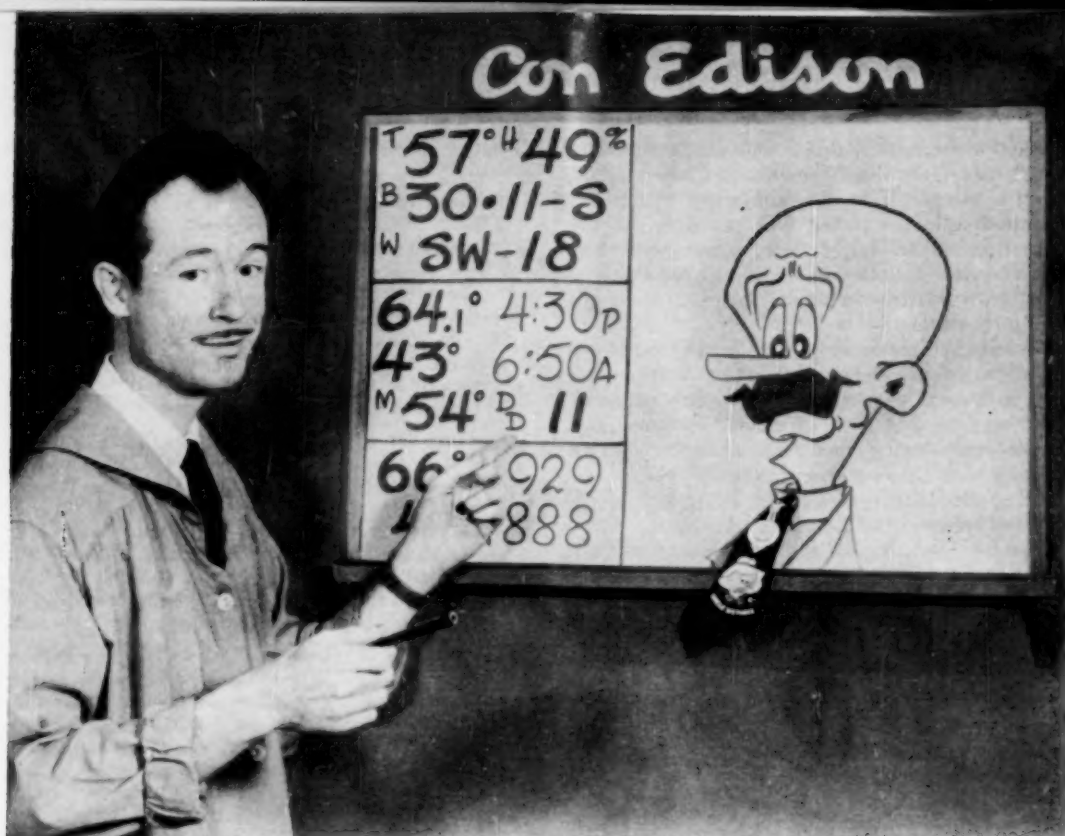
B. Intermediate

Westinghouse B584 (Westinghouse Electric Corp., Mansfield, Ohio) (\$14.36). Regular-style blanket, labeled rayon, cotton. Size, 85½ in. long by 74 in. wide. Weight, 4 lb. 7 oz. 180 watts. Leakage current, 0.4 ma. (satisfactory). Nine sewed-in thermostats were used to provide protection against overheating. Wires had tendency to loop. Instructions permit the blanket to be machine washed, but it is to be dried only on a clothesline. Appearance of blanket after laundering was not good. Figures on control were hard to read in a dark room. 1-yr. guarantee.

C. Not Recommended

St. Marys 3461-C (Bobrich Products Corp., Beacon, N.Y.) \$40 (\$18). Adjustable-contour blanket, labeled rayon, nylon, cotton. Size, 85½ in. long by 72½ in. wide. Weight, 3 lb. 13 oz. 140 watts. This blanket failed the high-voltage breakdown test in the brine solution. See page 20, column 2. Wires in blanket had tendency to loop. The appearance of this blanket after being laundered according to instructions was not good. Instructions permit this blanket to be washed and partially dried by machine. The guarantee is for the "life of the blanket," but a \$4 charge is made by the manufacturer.

Treasure Chest (Montgomery Ward's Cat. No. 85-3730) (\$20) Regular-style blanket, labeled nylon, rayon, cotton. Size, 83 in. long by 69 in. wide. Weight, 3 lb. 8 oz. 140 watts. This blanket failed the high-voltage breakdown test in the brine solution. Wires in blanket had tendency to loop. 2-yr. guarantee.



Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.

Degree-days and your fuel bill

THE quality and timeliness of many of the TV programs we watch each week are certainly to be questioned. Weather forecasting, however, has proved to be a "natural" for the medium and educational for many viewers, as well. For example, the term degree-days is no doubt "old hat" to those in the greater New York area who are fortunate enough to be within sight and sound of "Uncle Wethbee's" prognostications of snow, sleet, and winds during the winter. Indeed, it is likely true that this short but informative TV program and other weather reports in other areas have provided viewers with a helpful education regarding the meanings of the more common and useful terms employed by meteorologists. Certainly, viewers are aware that when "Tex" puts a scarf or earmuffs on "Uncle Wethbee" cold weather and "degree-days" are on the way.

The term "degree-day" is a confusing one to many laymen, possibly because the two words, separately, only vaguely convey the meaning intended by the term. The term is a convenient contraction of a phrase which is useful in arriving at the number of heat units your home heating system will have to generate in any one 24-

hour (day) period to keep your home warm.

To provide a common basis for calculation in any area, heating engineers consider a degree-day as a unit, and determine the number of degree-day units for any one day by subtracting the "mean" temperature for the day from 65°F. The "mean" (or average) temperature is obtained with sufficient accuracy by adding the highest and lowest outdoor temperatures measured during the 24-hour period and dividing by two. For example, if the highest temperature reached during the 24-hour period is 43° and the lowest 21°, $43^\circ + 21^\circ = 64^\circ$, $64^\circ \div 2 = 32^\circ$ (mean). $65^\circ - 32^\circ = 33^\circ$ below 65° for the day or 33 degree-days. Studies showed that when 65 degrees was used as a reference temperature or base, the number of degree-days accumulated in a chosen period of time, or through the heating season, was pretty closely proportional to the amount of fuel used in heating a home.

The accumulation of degree-days and the amount of fuel you burn naturally vary with the location (oil consumption, to some extent not covered by degree-day calculations, is also dependent upon the way the house is exposed to

wind and weather). Duluth, one of the coldest cities in the country, has a long-term average for the heating season of 9700 degree-days. St. Louis, which is centrally located, but farther south, averages about 4600. New Orleans, close to the Gulf of Mexico, averages only 1200. Thus, if you used 120 gallons of oil to heat a home in New Orleans, you would need something like 970 gallons to heat a home of the same type and size located in Duluth, assuming, as is not necessarily true where climates differ widely, that the heating plant used is of similar type and efficiency.

Total degree-days during a series of months are also of general interest. In St. Louis, for example, the averages are as follows: July, 0; August, 1; September, 38; October, 215; November, 558; December, 925; January, 998; February, 855; March, 607; April, 300; May, 91; and June, 8. It is interesting to note that April is a colder month than October and that March, when many of us get out the gardening tools in anticipation of an early spring, will normally be colder than November, a month during which cheery warmth from that old fireplace—or the furnace in the basement—really feels good.

The figures can be used for more practical purposes than providing topics of discussion. Many oil dealers, for example, keep their own daily record of degree-days (or obtain the figures from the local weather bureau). By intelligent use of the data, your dealer is able to determine when your fuel-oil supply is running low and your tank is in need of filling. First, he determines your personal "rate of use" in gallons per degree-day over a period of time. This figure naturally varies, depending, among other things, upon the condition of your heating system, the temperature you customarily maintain in your home, the amount of insulation, the degree of exposure of the house to wind, snow, rain, and sun, the presence or absence of weather stripping and storm windows, the number of times windows and doors are opened and closed during the course of the day. Thus, the rate of fuel consumption for your home may be considerably different from the rate for the home next door or on the next block even though the houses *appear* to be similar.

Suppose your burning rate is 0.2 gallon of oil per degree-day and you have a 275-gallon storage tank, if your dealer allows 75 gallons of storage as a margin of safety, he will wish to fill your tank when you have burned approximately 200 gallons of oil. He knows you will have burned about this amount when $\frac{200}{0.2}$ or 1000 degree-days have accumulated from the day your tank was previously filled.

From time to time, Consumers' Research re-

ceives letters from subscribers which include records for the amount of fuel they have used over a period of years. It is not possible to substantiate or disprove claims made by salesmen for unusual (30 percent or more) reductions in heating costs with the installation of storm windows, insulation, or even a new heating system, by fuel consumption data alone. Thus it may often happen that the conclusions drawn by a consumer regarding savings produced by house or heating plant changes are not fully dependable, simply because he failed to take into account the possibility of substantial yearly variations in heating requirements caused by differences in the weather. Thus, a 30 percent saving in fuel may have been ascribed to the installation of storm windows when, in fact, there were 20 percent fewer degree-days accumulated, a not unusual occurrence, during the heating season after installation and thus the saving due to the use of storm windows was much smaller, more nearly 10 percent.

If you are searching for an avocation that is not too time-consuming, yet one that will enable you to join the ranks of those men who think for themselves (even though you are not a smoker of *Viceroy* cigarettes), you might enjoy keeping your own daily temperature records, and a careful record of fuel consumption duly related to degree-days and other elements that might change the amount of heating required. The only equipment needed is a reasonably accurate maximum-minimum thermometer properly located out-of-doors (not in the sun, and at least six inches away from the building wall) and the determination to read and reset the thermometers at about the same time each day during the heating season. The Taylor Instrument Co., Rochester 1, New York, manufactures a self-registering, maximum-minimum mercury thermometer that would be satisfactory. Model 5458 with a range from minus 20 to plus 120°F lists for \$12.95, Model 5459 (minus 60 to plus 120°F) lists for \$13.95. Another, less expensive model, is available from the Brooklyn Thermometer Co., 217-09 Merrick Blvd., Springfield Gardens 13, N.Y. It is listed as Cat. No. 7419, has a range from -30° to 120°F, and sells for \$7.70, shipping charges included. If you are sufficiently interested to be willing to spend \$33.60, the Arthur H. Thomas Co., Vine St. at Third, Philadelphia 5, have available a U.S. Weather Bureau type which comprises a spirit-filled minimum thermometer with a range from -40° to 120°F in 1-degree divisions, and a mercury filled maximum thermometer, range -30° to 120°F in 1-degree divisions; the latter must be whirled for resetting. None of the models listed have been tested by Consumers' Research.

A look at the 1960 TV receivers

(The beginning of this article is on page 2)

reduce the price charged the consumer for a satisfactory receiver. They simplified circuit designs and substituted circuits using selenium rectifiers for those employing the more expensive—and more desirable—power transformer. Although these efforts brought manufacturing costs and selling prices down considerably, certain disadvantages came along with the simplifications referred to. For example, it was characteristic with use of metallic rectifiers that many receivers presented a considerable actual or potential shock hazard. Fortunately, during the past two years design trends have been reversed, possibly as a result of the constant emphasis by Consumers' Research on the importance of greater safety in electric appliances and television sets in particular. Indeed, all but three of the 1960-model receivers tested employ the more desirable and inherently safer transformer-type power supply.

Servicing problems

Another very favorable trend clearly in evidence in the new sets is the manufacturers' progress in providing chassis layouts that are easy to service. The amount you have to pay for any particular repair is dependent, principally, upon three things. First, the accessibility of the chassis and the various parts mounted on it will determine

the time it will take for a serviceman to go to work (and incidentally, may also affect his attitude toward the job). Some sets have been so poorly arranged that servicemen have refused to accept them for repair because they knew from experience that the customer, not realizing the difference between makes in this respect, would very likely consider the service charges excessive.

Another factor that affects repair charges is the skill and experience of the serviceman, for these determine the amount of time he has to apply to the set to find the defect in the circuit. All of the receivers tested were judged easy to service, even though 10 of the 15 sets employed the etched-chassis type of design. Unfortunately, some servicemen have a dislike for trouble-shooting on receiver circuits with printed or etched wiring, and therefore may tend to charge more for a particular repair than another serviceman with more experience in this kind of construction. If you have a regular serviceman who is skillful and charges at reasonable rates for his work, you might be well advised to check with him before finally deciding upon a model to buy, to find whether that model is one which he finds satisfactory from a service standpoint.

A third factor in determining costs of servicing is the charge for the defective part which has to be replaced and the amount of time required to connect it into the circuit. The second of these two items is by far the more important. Indeed, the total charge a repairman may make for replacing a 12-cent condenser in the horizontal sweep section may be higher than his charge for replacing a \$4 vacuum tube.

General comments on the 1960 models

An illuminated channel indicator is desirable and available on many of the 1960 models. Illumination, however, is not a necessary requisite to provide readability. In the *Westinghouse H-T3700*, for example, a well-positioned, small, white block with black lettering permits easy channel identification at a reasonable distance.

With most of the new sets, the design of the tuners has been improved so that it is no longer necessary to adjust the fine-tuning dial upon switching from one channel to another. This improvement is desirable, indeed almost necessary, on any receiver that is to be used with a remote-control device.

Some manufacturers are using a new, larger 23-inch tube size in some of their 1960 models, instead of the 21-inch tube hitherto most common



Setchell-Carlson

in today's sets. However, at the time Consumers' Research obtained the samples of the 1960 models for test, dealers were not stocking these 23-inch receivers and some indicated that they were concerned that the 23-inch tube might turn out to be a "non-standard" size and prove hard to sell. The new tube with its 10 percent larger diagonal measurement provides a picture area only 15 to 20 square inches (about 7 percent) larger than the conventional 21-inch tube and much of that increase is obtained at the corners where it is relatively unimportant to the viewer. It should also be borne in mind that even the customary 21-inch picture may be too large for comfortable viewing in a relatively small room.

Types of cabinet finishes and the costs of those other models in a manufacturer's line that employ essentially the same chassis as was used in the particular model Consumers' Research tested have been included in the listings, where available. Often the dealer does not carry the particular model tested or the purchaser wants a different cabinet style or finish; the information provided enables the consumer to determine whether another model has the same performance possibilities as the one tested by CR. As a general rule, the quality of sound from a console receiver will be noticeably better than that from a table model (or portable) because a larger and better-baffled loud-speaker is used in the console. The amount of leakage current measured, as mentioned in the table and present at exposed parts gives an indication of the possibility of an electric shock being received from the receiver in use.

The receivers are listed in alphabetical order within the A- and B-rated groups.

Regular receivers

A. Recommended

General Electric, Model 17T3317 (General Electric Co., Syracuse) \$200. In general, somewhat above average in over-all performance. Not well suited for use in fringe areas. Picture quality, somewhat above average; sound quality, average.

Portables, 17 inch: 17T3304, 5, 6, composition (hard board), \$159-\$179; 17T3310, 1, composition, \$169; 17T3315, 6, 7, 8, composition, \$179-\$199; 17T3320, 1, composition, \$189.

Table models, 21 inch: 21T3417, 19, 20, 21, black, bronze, mahogany, oak, \$169-\$209; 21T3425, mahogany, \$249; 21T3429, 30, 31, 32, walnut, mahogany, oak, gold, \$229; 21T3435, 6, mahogany, blond, \$269.

Console models, 21 inch: 21C3439, 40, 41, 42, 43, brown, mahogany, oak, \$199-\$259; 21C3445, 6, mahogany, oak, \$269-\$279; 21C3450, 1, mahogany, cherry, \$319-\$329; 21C3458, 9, mahogany, oak, \$319-\$329; 21C3478, 9, vermillion, ivory, and 21C3482, 3, vermillion, ivory, price not available.

Motorola, Model 21T68M (Motorola, Inc., 4545 W. Augusta Blvd., Chicago 51) \$240. The over-all performance of this receiver was judged to be above average. It should provide a satisfactory picture in fringe areas. Picture and sound quality were both above average.

Table models, 21 inch: 21T67, mahogany, oak, \$230-\$240; 21T68, mahogany, blond, \$240-\$250.



Sears portable

Console models, 21 inch: 21C10CW, cherrywood, \$260; 21K125, mahogany, blond; 21K126, mahogany, walnut, blond, \$300-\$310; 21K127, cherrywood; 21K129, mahogany, California mahogany, blond, \$320-\$330; 21K130CW, cherrywood, \$350; A21C11, mahogany, blond, with remote control, \$300-\$310; A21K138M, mahogany, with remote control, \$350; A21K139, mahogany, walnut, blond, with remote control, \$400-\$410; A21K140, mahogany, blond, with remote control, \$400-\$410; A21K141CW, cherry, with remote control, \$420.

Philco Siesta, Model 3412 (Philco Corp., Tioga and C Sts., Philadelphia 40) \$200. The *Siesta* is one of Philco's new 17-in. models in the *Predicta* series. The picture tube is mounted separately on top of the cabinet; it can be turned as desired for convenient viewing. The *Siesta* was somewhat above average in over-all performance. It should provide a satisfactory picture in near-fringe areas. Picture and sound quality were satisfactory.

Table models: *Predicta* series, 17-in.—3408 *Debutante*, brown, \$200; 3410 *Princess*, vermillion, beige, mahogany, \$210; 21-in.—4242 *Holiday*, oak, mahogany, \$270.

Console models, 21 inch: 4254, mahogany, blond, \$270-\$280; 4673, mahogany, blond, \$350-\$360; 4674, mahogany, blond, walnut, \$290-\$310; 4676, mahogany, blond, \$320-\$330, \$400-\$410 with remote control; 4682, walnut, mahogany, blond, \$370; 4710, mahogany, blond, \$350-\$360; 4730, mahogany, walnut, \$330; 4744, walnut, \$450; 4678, walnut, mahogany, \$350-\$360; 4680, mahogany, blond, walnut, \$380, with remote control, \$460.

Setchell-Carlson, Model ST-59 (Setchell-Carlson, Inc., New Brighton, St. Paul 12) \$200. The over-all performance of this receiver was well above average. It should provide a satisfactory picture in fringe areas. Picture quality was above average; sound quality was satisfactory. The *ST-59*, a 1959 model, was the only 21-in. *Setchell-Carlson* receiver available at the time the 1960 receivers were tested. The *Model 260* chassis used in the new 1960 models is similar but is claimed to have improved sensitivity.

Table model, 21 inch: *TL60*, mahogany, limed oak, cherry, walnut, \$219.

Console model, 21 inch: *60C*, brass, mahogany, limed oak, cherry, walnut, \$259.

Westinghouse, Model H-T3700 (Westinghouse Electric Corp., Television-Radio Div., Metuchen, N.J.) \$240. Over-all performance was above average. Should provide a satisfactory picture in fringe areas. Picture and sound quality were satisfactory.

Table models, 21 inch: *H-T3700*, 1, 2, \$240-\$250.

Console models, 21 inch: *H-K4000*, 1, 2, \$250-\$270; *H-K4100*, 1, 2, \$290-\$310; *H-K4200*, 1, 2, \$310-\$340; *H-K4400*, 1, 2, 3, \$410-\$440; *H-K4500*, 1, 2, 3, \$480-\$510; *H-K4600*, 1, 2, \$360-\$380.

Zenith, Model 2315 Palmer (Zenith Radio Corp., 6001 Dickens Ave., Chicago 39) \$230. Above average in over-all performance. Should provide good reception in fringe areas. Picture and sound quality were both above average.

Table models, 21 inch: *D2301 Ashford*, ebony, maroon, \$190; *D2302 Edgewater*, mahogany, \$210; *D2315 Palmer*, maroon, ebony, gold, \$210-\$220; *D2317 Gotham*, walnut, mahogany, blond, \$240; *D3002 Hadley*, walnut, mahogany, blond, with remote control, \$290.

Console models, 21 inch: *D2345 Sherman*, walnut, mahogany, blond, \$270-\$280; *D2347 Thorndale* low-boy, walnut, mahogany, blond, maple, frosted walnut, \$280; *D2348 Rutledge*, walnut, mahogany, blond, \$330; *D2350 Richmond*, walnut, mahogany, maple, cherry, \$360; *D2355 Somerville*, walnut, mahogany, blond, \$320.

Console model, 24 inch: *D2673 Hawthorne*, walnut, mahogany, blond, \$330.

B. Intermediate

Admiral, Model T22M12 (Admiral Corp., 201 N. Water St., Chicago 11) \$200. Over-all performance was average. Not recommended for fringe-area reception. Picture and sound quality were satisfactory.

Table models, 21 inch: *T22M11*, 2, 3, charcoal, mahogany, blond, \$190-\$210; *TS22M41*, 2, 3, charcoal, mahogany, blond, with *Sos-R* remote control, \$290-\$310.

Console models, 21 inch: *C22M11*, 2, 3, walnut, mahogany, blond, \$250-\$270; *C22M22*, 3, 4, mahogany, blond, walnut, \$280-\$300; *L22M22*, 3, 4, low-boy type, mahogany, blond, walnut, \$300-\$320; *CS22M41*, 2, 3, walnut, mahogany, blond, with *Sos-R* remote control, \$330-\$350; *LS22M42*, 3, 4, low-boy type, mahogany, blond, walnut, with *Sos-R* remote control, \$360-\$380.

Some characteristics of the 1960

	Regular								
	Admiral T22M12	Magnavox 1MV121-L	Motorola 21T68M	Philco 3412	RCA 210T157	Sears 87-114	Setchell-Carlson ST-50	Westinghouse H-T3700	Zenith 2315
Tube size, inches, diagonal	21	21	21	17	21	21	21	21	21
Weight, pounds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cabinet material	Metal	Wood	Wood	Metal	Metal	Hard-board	Wood	Wood	Metal
Location of controls	Front	Top	Front	Front	Front	Front	Front	Front	Front
Speaker size, inches	5	5½	4	4 x 6	4	5	6	4	5
Transformer powered?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Printed wiring?	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Workmanship	Sat.	Sat.	Sat.	Good	Sat.	Sat.	Good	Sat.	Sat.
Sensitivity	Sat.	Sat.	Good	Good	Fair	Sat.	Good	Sat.	V. Good
Picture brightness	Sat.	Sat.	Sat.	Sat.	Fair	Fair	Good	Good	Sat.
Interference rejection	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Sat.	Sat.	Good	Sat.	Good
Operation at low voltages	Fair	Sat.	Sat.	Fair	Fair	Sat.	Good	Good	Sat.
Leakage current (see text)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Neg.	Low	Low	Low	Low
Noise level, indicated by snow in weak picture	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Sat.	Good
Sound output, volume	Mod.	Mod.	Mod.	Low	Mod.	Low	High	Mod.	High

Sat.—Satisfactory
Mod.—Moderate
Neg.—Negligible

Magnavox, Model 1MV121-L (Magnavox Co., Fort Wayne, Ind.) \$200. Over-all performance was about average. Should provide a satisfactory picture in near-fringe areas. Picture and sound quality were satisfactory. Wooden cabinet was nicely finished.

Table model, 21 inch: 1-MV121-L, mahogany, \$200, Magnatex, \$189, oak or cherry, \$215.

Console models, 21 inch: 1-MV160L, Cordovan, \$200, mahogany, \$230, oak or cherry, \$240; 1-MV163L, mahogany, \$230, walnut, \$240, maple, \$250; 1-MV149L, mahogany, \$250, oak or cherry, \$260.

Console model, 24 inch: 2-MV307R, mahogany, \$260, oak, cherry, or walnut, \$270.

RCA, Model 210T157 (RCA Victor Television Div., Camden, N.J.) \$230. Performance was fair to satisfactory in most respects. This model is not well suited for use in fringe areas. Picture and sound quality were satisfactory.

Table models, 21 inch: 210T152 Lane, black, \$210; 210T155, 6, 7 Lane, mahogany, walnut, oak, \$220-\$230; 210TR212 Bowden, black, \$260.

Console models, 21 inch: 210K295, 6, 7, 9 Harper, mahogany or

walnut, \$250, cherry or oak, \$260; 210K335, 6, 7 Wayland, mahogany or walnut, \$290, oak, \$300; 210K356, 7 Fairfield, walnut, \$300, oak, \$310; 210K390, 94 Alexandria, cherry, maple, \$300; 210K415, 6, 7 Chadwick, mahogany, walnut, oak, \$330-\$340; 210KR435, 6 Brandon, mahogany, walnut, \$330; 210KR455, 6, 7 Landis, mahogany or walnut, \$370, oak, \$380.

Sears (Sears-Roebuck's Cat. No. 57-114) \$183, plus shipping; \$190 at retail store. Over-all performance was about average. Should provide a satisfactory picture in near-fringe areas. Picture and sound quality were satisfactory. The prices following do not include shipping charges.

Table models, 21 inch: 114, mahogany, \$183; \$190 with base.

Console models, 21 inch: 190, 192, mahogany, blond (includes stereo phonograph, not tested), \$335-\$345; 150, 152, 156, mahogany, blond, fruitwood, \$220-\$240; 130, 132, mahogany, blond, \$190-\$200.

Console models, 24 inch: 170, 172, mahogany, blond, \$240-\$250.

Portable receivers

A. Recommended

General Electric, Model 17T3317. See listing under "Regular receivers."

model television receivers tested

Portables						
General Electric 17T3317	Philco H-2010	RCA 170P042	Sears 57-104	Westinghouse HP-3301	Zenith D1811C	
17	2	17	17	17	17	Tube size, inches, diagonal
39	15	44	29	33	51	Weight, pounds
Plastic	Leather	Metal	Fiber glass	Metal	Metal	Cabinet material
Front	Front and sides	Front	Side	Front	Front and side	Location of controls
4	3 x 5	4	3 x 5	3 x 5	4	Speaker size, inches
Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Transformer powered?
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Printed wiring?
Sat.	Good	Sat.	Good	Sat.	Sat.	Workmanship
Sat.	V. Good	Sat.	Good	Good	Sat.	Sensitivity
Good	Sat.	Fair	Good	Good	Sat.	Picture brightness
Sat.	Sat.	Fair	Sat.	Sat.	Fair	Interference rejection
Sat.	Sat.	Poor	Good	Sat.	Fair	Operation at low voltages
Neg.	Neg.	Low	Low	Low	Low	Leakage current (see text)
Sat.	Good	Sat.	Good	Sat.	Sat.	Noise level, indicated by snow in weak picture
Low	Low	Low	Mod.	Low	Mod.	Sound output, volume

Philco Safari, Model H-2010 (Philco Corp.) \$250 in black or tan top-grain cowhide finished cabinet. This receiver is not only completely new and unique, but outstanding in several respects. Picture quality was excellent. Sensitivity was well above average, with a minimum of "snow" present, even on weak signals. Comparatively small size (8½ in. wide, 16½ in. high, 6¾ in. deep) and light weight, about 15 lb., make for easy portability. All are essential characteristics for a portable that will be used at the beach or in the mountains and is to be operated on its own built-in antenna. It has one principal limitation, in that the design is such that only one person (or two seated close together) can watch at a time. Rechargeable 7½-volt battery provides about 4 hr. of viewing; it must then be recharged for a period of about 16 hr. (A new battery is priced at \$5.) The *Safari* can also be used on the usual house current (a.c.). Some motor ignition noise appeared in the picture on the low-band channels when the set was used in or near an automobile with its engine running. The apparent picture size is about equivalent to that provided by a regular 14-in.-diagonal tube.

Sears (Sears-Roebuck's Cat. No. 57-104) \$165, plus shipping; \$175 at retail store. Over-all performance was above average. Set should provide a satisfactory picture in fringe areas. Picture quality was above average; sound quality was satisfactory. A molded *Fiberglas* cabinet is used.

B. Intermediate

RCA, Model 170P042 (RCA Victor Television Div.)

\$190. Somewhat below average when compared with the other portable receivers tested. Not well suited for use in fringe areas. Picture and sound quality were satisfactory. Has a metal cabinet, which is not desirable for a portable receiver.

Portable models, 17 inch: 170P042, 4, 9 *Stylist*, black, \$190, ivory or brown, \$200; 170P63, 4, 6, 7, 8 *Eldorado*, garnet, blond, charcoal, blue, \$210, brass, \$220; 170P072 *Dennis*, black, \$200; 170T085, 4, 7 *Debonair*, mahogany, \$210, ivory or oak, \$220; 170PR106, 9 *Petite*, gray, brown, \$240; 170TR115, 4 *Modernette*, mahogany, \$250; ivory, \$260.

Westinghouse, Model H-P3301 (Westinghouse Electric Corp.) \$200. Over-all performance was above average. Should provide a satisfactory picture in fringe areas. Picture and sound quality were both above average. An attempt has been made in this receiver to reduce the potential shock hazard by use of a polarized plug. Center section of cabinet was made of vinyl-clad metal; the H-P3301 would otherwise have been worthy of an *A-Recommended* rating.

Portable models, 17 inch: H-P3200, \$190; H-P3300, \$200.

Zenith, Model D1811C LaSalle (Zenith Radio Corp.) \$200. Should provide a satisfactory picture in near-fringe areas. Over-all performance was slightly above average. Picture and sound quality were satisfactory. The *LaSalle* is rated *B. Intermediate* because it employed a metal cabinet, which is not desirable. The portability of this receiver must be questioned, as it weighed more than 50 lb. If used only as a table model in the home, the *LaSalle* would be worthy of an *A-Recommended* rating.

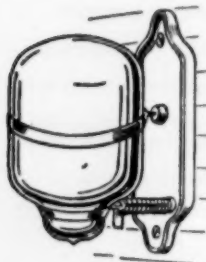
Portable models, 17 inch: D1810 *Caribbean*, blue, \$190; D1811, charcoal, \$200; D1812 *Jamaica*, tan, \$200; D1814 *Bahama*, gold, \$210; D2010C *Trinidad*, gray, with remote control, \$240; D2015L *Madrid*, brown, with remote control, \$250.

Christmas tree bulb 'fire extinguishers'

(The beginning of this article is on page 39)

Small extinguishers not effective

No small fire extinguishers are effective and dependable. Common sense could tell us that the large and sudden energies that are set free in a blaze of highly flammable material cannot be suppressed by the action of any small or compact extinguisher, no matter what it contains, or how it works. Such a fire is most unlikely to be effectively dealt with by any extinguisher of a grade



One of the various forms of ball, grenade, glass-bottle, or globe extinguishers, supposed to put out a fire by dropping on it when the blaze starts to give off heat.

and type too low to be approved by the Underwriters' Laboratories; with even the best approved extinguisher the incipient fire might readily get out of control. Send for the fire department at once!

Some poor and ineffective extinguishers have even been sold as means for raising money for fire departments, chapters of the Future Farmers of America, the band mothers' groups, junior and senior classes in high school collecting money for a school cause. An out-of-town salesman persuades them they have an ideal way of getting money quickly for their civic or school enterprise and at the same time performing a public service for the community. Various symbols and devices are used to persuade the prospective customer that the appliance is approved by public authorities, and if it is necessary to lie about such "approvals" to make sales, the out-of-town promoter will provide the false information, you may be sure. Remember—

1) State and city regulations do not, as a rule

prohibit the sale of any fire extinguisher, however useless or harmful it may be.

2) The extinguisher may be sold with symbols or under auspices which would lead the average citizen to assume that it had been approved and accepted and was favored by fire protection experts, "unbiased testing laboratories," or governmental or official authorities of some sort.

In considering a device that does not show Underwriters' Laboratories' approval, one must bear in mind either that the manufacturer very likely does not know about the ineffectiveness of the device which he is selling, or that his expectations are based on hopes rather than on facts ascertained by trial under actual conditions of a fire in the home. Second, it is extremely unlikely that he has concerned himself about the dangers of toxicity or hazards in use, since men who go in for aggressive selling of the sort of products described have little knowledge of the chemical and engineering aspects of what they are selling.

Buy only an approved extinguisher

Good extinguishers are not cheap, and they will always bear the approval symbol of the Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) or Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies (FM). Not

No one extinguisher can deal with all types of fires that may start in the home. The kind pictured, a stored-pressure, dry-powder extinguisher, is of a UL-approved make and type, and is considered the best single kind to buy for home fire protection. On wood, paper, cloth, and like materials, use water from a bucket or hose.



Christmas Trees Made Fireproof

PHILADELPHIA (AP).

Now Christmas tree ornaments double as safety gadgets....

The ornament turns into an extinguisher if the tree catches fire.

The two big New York newspapers that ran this story were misled, as newspapers often are, by highly imaginative publicity.

One can see below what happened to one woman who believed a fire extinguisher salesman.

Glass Bulb Extinguisher Suit

On Nov. 7, 1957 a 3-story wooden summer hotel in Canadensis, Pennsylvania was practically destroyed by fire....

A suit filed in Denver Thursday contends that 335 Colorado-made fire extinguishers were a fizzle in a Pennsylvania hotel fire....

... They were installed in the hotel as directed by the company, she claimed.

But the property was destroyed by a fire, the complaint alleged....

The Pennsylvania woman alleged that the fire spread and destroyed the hotel because of failure of the extinguishers to operate properly.

all kinds of extinguishers work well or safely on all kinds of fires. Every boy and girl in high school should be taught the rudiments of fire protection and know how to deal with the most common kinds of fires. See 1959-1960 *Consumer Bulletin Annual*, page 201, and the articles in October 1959, July and December 1957 BULLETINS. Other articles appeared in the following CONSUMER BULLETINS: August and July 1956, and November 1953 (each, three pages). Tearsheets of any of these BULLETIN articles will be sent (at 20 cents for each item) on request accompanied by a 4-cent, stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Extinguishers not to buy

Above all, students—and everyone else—should be taught about all the common kinds of extinguishers that they should *not* use or rely upon. These include grenade or glass ball "automatic" extinguishers, vaporizing liquid (carbon tetrachloride) extinguishers, including "beer-can" (aerosol) extinguishers, extinguishers made of a plastic envelope to be squeezed to eject the liquid, all extra-small or very compact extinguishers. All of these have been sold by reputable department and hardware stores, whose buyer personnel have no training in the principles of fire extinguisher design and utilization.

Regardless of endorsements, testimonials, and alleged "approvals," they're *still* no good, and can do great harm through the false assurance of security and safeguarding that they afford the homeowner. Indeed, they may often spread a fire, rather than stop it. *Send for the fire department at once!*

● OFF THE EDITOR'S CHEST

Don't buy mother an axe for Christmas

THERE are two schools of thought when it comes to buying Christmas presents. One goes in for the sensible, practical kind; the other, the glittering gifties including the latest improbable, impractical, fantastic innovations, and a variety of "gadgets." Of course, in between there are a lot of discriminating people who purchase gifts that are really wanted and appropriate. The most effective purchases are likely to be those bought early, and many women have a habit of being forehanded on Christmas buying. Men are notoriously dilatory and some are given to boasting that they wait until the day before Christmas before even starting on their shopping. It may be said for this technique that luxury items, fancy lingerie, and dressy sweaters are often available at considerable reductions in price at that time. On the other hand, selections are likely to be limited.

The schools of thought on gift buying also divide on the matter of making essential family purchases as Christmas presents. It is well for the man of the house to remember that a needed home appliance may not be welcome as a Christmas gift. One young husband was quite surprised at the lack of enthusiasm shown by his wife when she opened a box under the Christmas tree containing a new vacuum cleaner she had previously asked for. When he suggested that she had wanted a new vacuum cleaner for a long time, she replied "I did, but not for Christmas." There used to be a wisecrack, "Let's give mother an axe for Christmas," and sometimes household equipment is in that category.

While it is pleasant to surprise various members of the family with well chosen gifts, it is usually wise to have a conference on any item involving a sizable expenditure such as a television set, high-fidelity stereo assembly, a record player, boat, camping equipment, or some other item that the entire family will use and enjoy. When the decision has been made by the group, there will be little risk of unhappiness as to the type or brand selected and no need to return or exchange the item which, in some cases, may be difficult or impossible, particularly if it has been bought from a discount house.

For children, there is such a wide variety of excellent and educational toys on the market that the amount of money in the budget for such purchases can be the guiding rule. The problem is easy with teenagers, who are usually quite vocal and specific about their wants.

Buying a gift for the man of the household is

something of a problem, particularly if he is interested in home workshop tools, a camera, recordings, or some hi-fi accessory. One careful shopper who bought her husband a set of home workshop tools at a discount house failed to get the right assortment, and as it turned out, the tools were skimmed in design or of indifferent quality. Since there were no return privileges, the gift has been something of a white elephant. As one man put it: "I don't object to having my wife get me some home workshop tools, but I want to point to a particular brand and model and say get me this one if you're buying a present—and don't pay more than X dollars for it." In making purchases of sizable amounts in the hobby field, be sure that they may be returned for credit or exchange if they are not the type or grade wanted.

It is the wise man who refrains from buying the lady of the household something that *he* yearns to own, but feels that it is too expensive for his own personal choice, a movie camera, perhaps for taking family pictures, a high-fidelity radio-phonograph, or a tent and camping equipment for vacation trips. One observing husband noted that he never bought anything for the home as a Christmas gift for his wife because, as he remarked, they would buy those things anyway. Another husband, who always gives money, stipulates that it is to be spent on something personal and not for the home. Good lingerie, good sweaters, jewelry, an attractive but practical housecoat, gloves and blouses when the sizes are known, are all presents that women have reported are usually acceptable.

For those "who have everything," whose household is well stocked, whose appliances are adequate and functioning and who prefer to select their own clothing, why not consider the gift of a trip or a cruise? A trip, if only for a week end, might give more pleasure than anything else. Those who belong to the American Automobile Association might get a Trip-Tik from home to the destination as a symbol of the gift. Esso Travel Service, Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, will also supply marked maps. For larger purchases of the pleasures of travel there are any number of colorful folders and interesting travel guides to symbolize the gift of a journey to Mexico, the Caribbean, or some more distant land.

One last suggestion of a gift for those who do *not* have everything and want to plan wisely for the future: consider giving them the *Annual Bulletin* and a subscription to CONSUMER BULLETIN.

Letters from our readers

Hi-fi at a price

I am a long-time subscriber and a novice seeking some information about hi-fi that eventually would be compatible with stereo, at a price that the average fellow could afford. I am no purist, I just like good music.

I am a cabinet maker and planned to build my cabinet and speaker enclosure, starting the system with a record player and FM tuner. My living-dining-room area has 3400 cu. ft., painted walls, all windows curtained and draped.

A. O. S., Pa.

► You did not indicate the amount of money you may be willing to invest in your high-fidelity system. We think, however, that you will find all of the information you will need to make a choice in the high-fidelity section of our *Annual Bulletin*. You will note on pages 209 to 210 that there are stereo systems suggested at three price levels. We would guess from your letter that you might be particularly interested in the compact moderate-priced stereo systems.

We should point out that you would be well advised not to purchase a hi-fi system using a monophonic amplifier at this time with the thought of eventually converting it to stereo later on. The designs of amplifiers have changed to the extent that the newer designs are far more satisfactory for use in a stereophonic system, particularly with regard to convenience and control functions and positions and you will likely find, when you do decide to convert, that you will not want to use the amplifier you purchased for a monophonic system.

Wigs

Kindly let me know if wigs made of nylon wear as well as those of human hair. I am totally bald and have been for some 18 years. I am now in a position where a wig will become a necessity. Could you tell me what firms make wigs of nylon and their addresses?

W.M., Oregon

► We understand that wigs made of natural hair have a life of about two years, with proper care. (This means having a second wig and sending the first one for cleaning every month or two.) We have seen no figures on the probable life of a nylon wig. You may be able to get some information on this point from E. I. duPont de Nemours in Wilmington, Delaware. This firm should, we believe, be able to give you the names and addresses of firms making wigs of nylon.

It is our understanding that the three largest wig-makers are Max Factor & Co. of Hollywood, The House of Louis Feder, Inc., 545 Fifth Ave., New York City, and Joseph Fleischer & Co., 12 W. 27 St., also in New York City. The latter company makes wigs for Sears, Roebuck & Co. which can be ordered by mail. (For details, write Sears, Roebuck & Co., Dept. 139, Chicago 7, Ill.) Prices of Sears' toupees begin at \$110 and range up to \$225 for a full-size wig (installment terms are available). Hair pieces of natural hair for men run from \$85 to \$400, according to the price list of one specialist.

Dry cleaning

I am writing for your advice with regard to dry cleaning of garments. Could you tell me how to go about finding a dependable cleaning establishment, within an area of 500 miles, if necessary, where I might take or send our better garments. My trial and error method has proven disappointing. My biggest problem has been shrinkage and change in color.

The garments I am concerned with are mostly woolens, in which I have a substantial investment.

Mrs. R. L. W., Nebraska

► One way to locate a well informed dry cleaner is to write to the National Institute of Drycleaning, Inc., 909 Burlington Ave., Silver Spring, Md. and ask them for the names of members in your vicinity. Members of the Institute receive regular bulletins from that organization's laboratory, and thus are likely to be well informed about the many new fabrics, constructions, and materials used in clothing nowadays.

Your difficulties with shrinkage and changes in color are common ones that are not necessarily due to improper dry cleaning; the fabric or its dyeing in a particular garment may be at fault. In that connection, it is important to read the hang tag on the garment before buying, and save it for the dry cleaner's information so that he may follow the manufacturer's directions for proper care. Even an expert cannot always tell, just by looking at a garment, what methods of handling it in the cleaning process will be safe and effective.

Brakes on automobiles

Last month I purchased a new 1959 two-door sedan. The problem of driving in wet weather has given me serious concern as I find that after driving through even small puddles the brakes become wet and require great pressure to be effective. At the very time that one might expect to require good brake action, brakes do not respond promptly.

I am told by the local sales agent that this is typical of all the new cars, although I have never had as much trouble with the previous cars which I owned.

J.W.B., Canada

► We have not received any complaints other than yours on the failure of brakes to perform satisfactorily in wet weather, and we do not believe that your dealer is correct in his statement; not all new cars are subject to the difficulty you describe.

All brakes, of course, are adversely affected when wet, and this may occur by splash, or by driving through hub-deep water, but for small puddles and generally wet roads, the brakes are usually adequately protected against the entrance of water. The design of the brakes on your car is not significantly different from that of other cars, and we see no reason why they should be more vulnerable than other brakes to failure under wet road conditions. No information has come to us that would indicate that such a complaint would properly lie against 1959 automobiles in general, as the dealer implied.

Phonograph Records

BY WALTER F. GRUENINGER

Please Note: Stereo records are indicated by the symbol (S). Ratings (AA, A, B, etc.) apply first to the quality of interpretation, second to the fidelity of the recording.

Ⓔ **Bach:** *St. Matthew Passion*. Haefliger, Engen, Proebstl, Seefried, Fischer-Dieskau, etc., under Richter. 8 sides, Archive 73125/8. \$27.92. Among the most moving choral works in the literature. Can one ever tire of it? But the performance is less than high art. In most cases the soloists are excellent, but Engen and Proebstl don't make all they should of their parts. The direction tends to speed the work at times, drag it at other times, and altogether it seems too matter of fact. On occasion the solo voice sounds too loud in relation to the chorus and orchestra. **A A**

Ⓔ **Brahms:** *Concerto No. 2*. Rubinstein (piano) with the RCA Victor Symphony under Krips. RCA Victor LSC 2296. \$5.98. The "largest" concerto may sound weighty on first hearing, but it rewards those who listen to it repeatedly, particularly when the performance is as mellow as this one. Rubinstein and Krips team up splendidly, and the recording engineers serve them well, too. **AA AA**

Ⓔ **Franck:** *Symphonic Variations & D'Indy: Symphony on a French Mountain Air*. Robert Casadesu (piano) with the Philadelphia Orchestra under Ormandy. Columbia ML 5388. \$3.98. Casadesu recorded this pair of outstanding French works over half a dozen years ago on a disk which Columbia now withdraws. His playing was top notch then and it is equally good here. The orchestra and conducting are better on the new disk and so is the engineering. **AA A**

Ⓔ **Friml:** *Rose-Marie*. Julie Andrews, Giorgio Tozzi, etc., under Lehman Engel. RCA Victor LSO 1001. \$5.98. Though a quarter of a century has passed since *Rose-Marie* opened on Broadway, its tunes linger. The principals fully measure up to the task, but several members of the supporting cast could be better. Marvelous direction and recording. **A AA**

Ⓔ **Mendelssohn:** *Concerto in E Minor & Prokofiev: Concerto in G Minor*. Heifetz (violin) with the Boston Symphony under Munch. RCA Victor LSC 2314. \$5.98. The coupling offers one of the leading romantic concertos and a modern one of some merit. Violinists' heads throughout the land will shake in disapproval of Heifetz's fast tempi in the Mendelssohn. He makes it a chamber work, dashed off with astonishing skill and ravishing tone—but is it Mendelssohn? The Prokofiev performance is incisive, perfect. Excellent orchestral support and good recording with the violinist solidly in the middle. **A AA**

Ⓔ **Mozart:** *Concertos Nos. 1 and 2 for Flute and Orchestra*. Elaine Shaffer (flute) with the Philharmonia Orchestra under Kurtz. Capitol SG 7135. \$5.98. Delightful, simple music. Miss Shaffer's limpid tone and technical dexterity call for cheers. A proud achievement is the recording. **AA AA**

Ⓔ **Prokofiev:** *String Quartet Nos. 1 and 2*. Endres Quartet. Vox PL 11100. \$4.98. If the Prokofiev idiom meets with your approval you may find these quartets stimulating. The playing emphasizes the rough hewn qualities of the score but there's no triumph. More depth and color would be welcome. Satisfactory recording. **A A**

Ⓔ **Ravel:** *Boléro and Alborado del Gracioso & Falla: The Three Corners Hat Suite & Weber: Invitation to the Dance*. Paris Conservatoire Orchestra under Wolff. London CS 6077. \$4.98. A miscellany of generally exciting music superbly played. Far above average recording with extraordinarily large dynamic contrasts. **AA AA**

Ⓔ **Respighi:** *Ancient Airs and Dances*. Philharmonia Hungarica under Dorati. Mercury MG 50199. \$3.98. The music stems from Italy and France. Principally tuneful, light, brilliantly scored. Some of the wit passes unnoticed by the players, but in many respects the performance is good. The engineers have provided broad

dynamic contrast, but some of the higher frequencies sound "wiry." **A A**

Ⓔ **Tchaikovsky:** *1812 Overture & Ravel: Boléro*. Morton Gould Orchestra and Band under Gould. RCA Victor LSC 2345. \$1.98. A low-priced demonstration record that's quite extraordinary. The sound and performance are difficult to beat as of today. Of course, the music lends itself to this strong treatment, too. **AA AA**

Ⓔ **Tchaikovsky:** *Swan Lake Ballet*. L'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande under Ansermet. 4 sides, London CSA 2204. \$9.96. A masterpiece of ballet music marvelously played and recorded. Easily one of the most impressive sets of the month. **AA AA**

Ⓔ **Verdi:** *La Forza del Destino*. Milanov, Di Stefano, Warren, Elias, Tozzi, etc., under Previtali. 8 sides, RCA Victor LSC 6406. \$23.92. The melodic score keeps this opera in the repertory, but it needs also an expert cast which it nearly gets here. As Leonora, Milanov rises to the occasion most of the time, but there are a few flat moments. Di Stefano as Don Alvaro may not be the most subtle tenor in the world, but he is eager and robust. The rest of the cast sing well, and the conducting is first rate. So is the sound. I care less for the fancy packaging. **A AA**

Ⓔ **American Marches. Musikkorps des Wachbattalions under Deisenroth. Vox STVX 425,930. \$3.98. "El Capitan," "The Crusader," "Anchors Aweigh," "The Army Goes Rolling Along," "Hands Across the Sea," and other standard pieces played with zest and rich tone. Full-bodied recording. **AA AA****

Ⓔ **Elizabethan and Jacobean Ayres, Madrigals and Dances. New York Pro Musica under Greenberg. Decca DL 79406. \$5.98. Short compositions by Morley, Dowland, Byrd, Gibbons, Coperario, and others. Some are vocal, others instrumental. Appropriate cross section of the music of this period. Very well played and recorded. **AA AA****

Ⓔ **Finlandia**—Music of Grieg and Sibelius. London Proms Symphony under Mackerras. RCA Victor LSC 2336. \$5.98. Simple, direct, melodic works that touch the heart. Played without undue emotion. Excellent recording. **AA AA**

Ⓔ **Gershwin in Brass. Everest LPBR 5047. \$3.98. Lots of fun here, for 23 of "the world's greatest brass" under Jack Saunders play "Fascinatin' Rhythm," "But Not For Me," "An American In Paris," "Clap Yo' Hands," and others, in special arrangements. There are trumpets, trombones, a tuba, French horns, percussion, guitar, and bass. Sounds like an expert brass band having a good time. Acceptable recording. **AA A****

Ⓔ **My Eyes Have Seen. Odetta (singer). Vanguard VRS 9059. \$4.98. At this summer's folk festival in Newport, Odetta was highly praised. She certainly is an up-and-coming attraction in the field of negro spirituals and folk material. Strong, resonant voice, clear articulation, deep feeling for her songs. Included are "Poor Little Jesus," "Bald Headed Woman," "Motherless Children," "Foggy Dew," "Saro Jane," and others. Well recorded. **AA AA****

Ⓔ **The Gershwin Years. Orchestra, Chorus, and Soloists under Bassman. 6 sides, Decca DXSZ 7160. \$14.94. A potpourri of Gershwin material—vocal and instrumental. When it comes to performers, it impresses me as a low-budget job. The orchestra sounds small, the soloists sound little better than band vocalists. While Gershwin survives, there's a job to be done and it should be better than this. Well recorded with wide channel separation. **B AA****

Ⓔ **The Lord's Prayer. Mormon Tabernacle Choir and the Philadelphia Orchestra under Ormandy. Columbia ML 5386. \$4.98. Old and new Christian music ranging from "Blessed Are They That Mourn" to "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Beautifully performed. The recording is good for mono. **AA A****

Ratings of Current Motion Pictures

THIS SECTION aims to give critical consumers a digest of opinion from a wide range of motion picture reviews, including the motion picture trade press, leading newspapers and magazines—some 19 different periodicals in all. The motion picture ratings which follow thus do not represent the judgment of a single person, but are based on an analysis of critics' reviews.

The sources of the reviews are:

Boxoffice, Cue, Daily News (N. Y.), The Exhibitor, Films in Review, Harrison's Reports, Joint Estimates of Current Motion Pictures, Motion Picture Herald, National Legion of Decency, Newsweek, New York Herald Tribune, New York Times, The New Yorker, Parents' Magazine, Release of the D. A. R. Preview Committee, Reviews and Ratings by the Protestant Motion Picture Council, The Tablet, Time, Variety (weekly).

The figures preceding the title of the picture indicate the number of critics whose judgments of its entertainment values warrant a rating of A (recommended), B (intermediate), or C (not recommended).

Audience suitability is indicated by "A" for adults, "Y" for young people (14-18), and "C" for children, at the end of each line.

Descriptive abbreviations are as follows:

adv—adventure
biog—biography
c—in color (Anasco, Eastman, Technicolor, Trucolor, Warner Color, etc.)
car—cartoon
com—comedy
cri—crime and capture of criminals
doc—documentary
dr—drama
fan—fantasy
hist—founded on historical incident
mel—melodrama
mus—musical
mys—mystery
nov—dramatization of a novel
rom—romance
sci—science fiction
soc—social-problem drama
trav—travelogue
war—dealing with the lives of people in wartime
wes—western

A	B	C	
—	2	3	Adulteress, The (French).....dr A
—	2	1	All Mine to Give.....dr-c A
—	3	6	Alligator People, The.....sci-mel A
1	5	2	Anatomy of Love, The (Italian).....com AY
5	8	6	Anatomy of Murder.....nov A
—	8	5	Angry Hills, The.....war-mel A
1	5	—	Antarctic Crossing (British).....doc-c AY
—	3	2	Aren't We Wonderful (German).....dr AY
3	13	2	Ask Any Girl.....com-c A
—	1	2	Attack of the Jungle Women.....doc-dr-c A
—	2	1	Babette Goes to War (French).....com AY
—	4	3	Back to the Wall (French).....cri-mel A
—	3	4	Bat, The.....mys-mel A
—	3	5	Battle Flame, The.....war-dr A
—	3	—	Battle of the Coral Sea, The.....war-dr AY
—	3	—	Beast from a Haunted Cave.....cri-mel A
—	1	2	Beasts of Marseilles, The (British).....war-mys-mel AY
—	2	1	Beloved Infidel.....biog-c A
—	3	1	Ben-Hur.....hist-dr-c AY
—	3	3	Best of Everything, The.....dr-c A
—	3	—	Beyond this Place (British).....dr A
2	10	4	Big Circus, The.....mel-c AY
4	7	6	Big Fisherman, The.....hist-dr-c AY
—	6	5	Big Operator, The.....cri-mel A
—	11	8	Blue Angel, The.....mel-c A
2	9	7	Blue Denim.....soc-dr A
—	7	4	Born to Be Loved.....com AY
—	3	—	Bucket of Blood, A.....mel A
1	10	4	But Not for Me.....com A
2	4	5	Career.....mel A
—	2	1	Carlton-Browne of the F. O. (British).....com AY
—	2	5	Cast a Long Shadow.....wes AY
—	2	1	Christ in Bronze (Japanese).....dr AY
—	1	2	City After Midnight (British).....mys-mel AY
—	—	3	Counterplot.....mys-mel AY
—	3	3	Crimson Kimono, The.....mys-mel A
1	3	10	Cry Tough.....soc-mel A
—	4	5	Curse of the Undead.....sci-mel A
—	—	3	Daddy-O.....mel A
—	1	2	Date With Death, A.....mys-mel A
—	2	6	Day of the Outlaw.....mel A

A	B	C	
—	—	3	Defend My Love (Italian).....dr A
—	—	4	Desert Desperadoes (Italian).....mel A
—	10	6	Devil's Disciple, The.....com AY
—	—	3	Diary of a Bad Girl (French).....soc-dr A
—	—	4	Diary of a High School Bride, A.....soc-dr A
—	3	10	Don't Give Up the Ship.....war-com A
—	5	3	Elephant Gun (British).....mel-c AY
—	—	3	End of the Line, The.....mys-mel A
—	3	—	End of the Road (British).....war-dr A
—	2	2	Eternal Waltz, The (German).....mus-dr-c AY
—	4	5	Face of Fire.....mel AY
6	9	3	FBI Story, The.....dr-c AY
—	4	4	Five Gates to Hell.....war-mel A
6	8	4	Five Pennies, The.....mus-biog-c AY
—	1	4	Flesh and Desire (Italian).....dr A
—	7	3	Floods of Fear (British).....cri-mel A
—	9	7	For the First Time.....mus-dr-c AY
—	4	1	4D Man.....sci-mel-c AY
—	—	8	Four Skulls of Jonathan Drake, The.....cri-mel A
—	1	3	Ghost of Dragatrip Hollow.....mel AY
—	5	5	Giant Behemoth, The (British).....cri-mel AY
—	2	1	Giant Gila Monster, The.....sci-mel AY
—	1	8	Gigantis, The Fire Eater.....sci AY
—	5	2	Girls Are Willing, The (Danish).....com-c AY
—	—	3	Girls, Inc.....soc-dr A
—	2	6	Girls' Town.....soc-mel A
—	3	1	Glass Tower, The (German).....mel A
—	3	3	Go, Johnny, Go.....mus-com AY
—	2	4	Grisbi (French).....dr A
—	7	4	Gunfight at Dodge City, The.....wes-c AY
—	2	3	Handful of Grain, A (India).....dr-c A
11	1	1	Happy is the Bride (British).....com A
—	2	1	Harvest Home (German).....dr A
—	5	3	Have Rocket, Will Travel.....com AY
—	2	3	Headless Ghost, The (British).....mys-mel A
—	2	1	Hell in Korea (British).....war-dr AY
—	6	10	Hercules (Italian).....dr-c AY
—	3	7	Here Come the Jets.....war-mel AY
—	4	5	Heroes and Sinners (French).....dr A

A	B	C		
—	2	2	Hideous Sun Demon.....	sci-mel A
—	8	6	H-Man, The (Japanese).....	sci-c A
2	10	7	Hole in the Head, A.....	com-c AY
—	11	3	Holiday for Lovers.....	mus-dr-c AY
—	2	3	Holiday Island (Italian).....	dr-c A
—	5	7	Horror of the Black Museum.....	cri-dr-c A
4	12	2	Horse Soldiers, The.....	war-dr-c AY
—	3	1	Hound-Dog Man, The.....	mus-dr-c A
1	13	2	Hound of the Baskervilles, The (British).....	mys-c AY
—	2	4	Inside the Mafia.....	cri-mel A
—	—	8	Invisible Invaders.....	sci AY
—	1	9	Island of Lost Women.....	mel AY
—	—	3	Isle of Levant, The.....	doc-c A
2	10	2	It Happened to Jane.....	com-c AY
—	10	6	It Started with a Kiss.....	war-com-c A
—	2	1	Jayhawkers, The.....	wes-c AY
—	3	—	Jet Over the Atlantic.....	dr AY
4	7	5	John Paul Jones.....	hist-dr-c AY
—	1	7	Jonas (German).....	dr A
1	3	—	Journey to the Center of the Earth.....	sci-c AY
—	3	—	Killer Shrews, The.....	sci-mel AY
—	5	3	King of the Wild Stallions, The.....	wes-c AY
—	4	5	Lady Chatterley's Lover (French).....	dr A
2	2	1	Last Angry Man, The.....	dr AY
—	6	3	Legend of Tom Dooley, The.....	war-dr AY
—	3	—	Li'l Abner.....	mus-com-c AY
—	—	3	Little Rascals Variety Show, The.....	com AY
—	4	—	Living North, The (Swedish).....	doc AY
—	—	3	Lonely Sex, The.....	soc-dr A
—	5	12	Look Back in Anger (British).....	dr A
—	—	3	Love in the City (Italian).....	soc-dr A
—	8	7	Love is My Profession (French).....	dr A
1	6	2	Magician, The (Swedish).....	dr A
—	4	12	Man in the Net, The.....	mys-mel AY
—	8	3	Man Upstairs, The (British).....	mys-mel AY
—	8	3	Man Who Could Cheat Death, The.....	cri-mel-c A
—	5	8	Man Who Understood Women, The.....	com-c A
—	2	1	Man Who Wagged His Tail, The.....	fan AY
2	10	7	Middle of the Night, The.....	dr A
—	2	3	Milkmaid, The (Finnish).....	dr A
—	3	—	Miracle, The.....	dr-c AY
—	6	4	Miracle of the Hills, The.....	dr AY
—	6	3	Mirror Has Two Faces, The (French).....	dr A
—	5	2	Monpti (German).....	dr-c A
1	2	—	Most Dangerous Sin, The (French).....	cri-mel A
—	3	3	Most Wonderful Moment, The (Italian).....	doc-dr A
—	5	3	Mouse that Roared, The (British).....	com-c AY
—	—	3	Mugger, The.....	cri-mel A
—	7	1	Mummy, The (British).....	sci-mel-c AY
—	8	6	Mysterians, The (Japanese).....	sci-c AY
—	—	3	Naked Venus, The.....	dr A
—	2	1	Never So Few.....	war-dr-c A
—	1	3	No Escape (French).....	dr A
5	11	1	North by Northwest.....	mys-mel-c A
6	11	1	Nun's Story, The.....	dr-c AY
—	5	2	Odds Against Tomorrow.....	cri-dr A
—	6	3	Of Love and Lust (Swedish).....	dr A
—	1	2	On the Beach.....	war-mel A
—	3	1	Once More With Feeling.....	com-c A
1	3	—	Operation Petticoat.....	war-com-c A
1	6	3	Oregon Trail, The.....	hist-dr-c AY
—	3	2	Paris Hotel (French).....	com-c A
—	2	6	Pier 5, Havana.....	mel AY
3	8	2	Pillow Talk.....	mus-com-c A
—	3	2	Plan 9 from Outer Space.....	sci AY

A	B	C		
—	3	—	Plunderers of Painted Flats.....	wes A
3	10	5	Porgy and Bess.....	mus-dr-c A
—	13	3	Pork Chop Hill.....	war-dr AY
—	7	3	Possessors, The (French).....	nov A
2	2	1	Power Among Men.....	propaganda-doc A
1	10	4	Private's Affair, A.....	war-com-c AY
2	6	8	Rabbit Trap, The.....	dr AY
—	—	3	Rape of Malaya, The.....	war-mel A
—	4	1	Rebel Set, The.....	cri-mel A
—	2	1	Reform School Girl.....	soc-mel AY
—	4	6	Return of the Fly.....	sci-mel AY
3	2	—	Rikisha Man, The (Japanese).....	dr-c AY
—	2	9	Riot in Juvenile Prison.....	soc-dr A
—	1	3	Road Racers, The.....	mel A
1	9	1	Roof, The (Italian).....	dr AY
—	3	4	Room 43 (British).....	soc-dr A
—	3	—	Sampson and Delilah.....	hist-dr-c A
—	3	2	Sans Famille (French).....	dr-c A
—	—	3	Santa Chikita (Greek).....	com A
1	7	1	Sapphire (British).....	cri-dr-c A
—	12	5	Say One for Me.....	mus-dr-c AY
—	3	—	Scampolo (German).....	dr-c A
—	9	7	Scapegoat, The (British).....	mys-dr AY
—	1	3	Sea Fury.....	adv A
—	7	9	Shake Hands with the Devil.....	war-dr A
—	1	3	Sign of the Gladiator (Italian).....	hist-dr-c A
—	5	1	Sinners of Paris (French).....	cri-mel A
—	3	—	Sky Without Stars (German).....	war-dr A
—	3	1	Solomon and Sheba.....	hist-dr-c A
—	10	2	Son of Robin Hood, The (British).....	dr-c AY
2	3	—	South Pacific.....	mus-dr-c AY
—	2	2	Speaking of Murder (French).....	cri-dr A
—	2	6	Speed Crazy.....	mel A
—	3	1	Stephanie (German).....	dr A
—	2	5	Street of Shame (Japanese).....	soc-dr A
—	4	2	Subway in the Sky (British).....	mys-mel A
—	4	3	Summer Place, A.....	dr-c A
—	4	1	Surrender—Hell!.....	war-dr A
—	2	4	Tailor's Maid, The (Italian).....	com A
—	3	1	Take a Giant Step.....	soc-dr AY
—	3	5	Tamango (French).....	mel-c AY
—	3	—	Tarzan the Apeman.....	adv-c AY
1	7	4	Tarzan's Greatest Adventure.....	adv-c AY
—	1	5	Teenagers from Outer Space.....	sci AY
—	6	6	Ten Seconds to Hell.....	war-mel A
—	7	9	That Kind of Woman.....	dr A
—	2	1	That Naughty Girl (French).....	mel-c A
—	5	4	They Came to Cordura.....	war-mel-c A
—	5	1	Third Man on the Mountain, The.....	dr-c AY
—	3	6	Thirty-Foot Bride of Candy Rock, The.....	sci-com AY
1	8	4	This Earth is Mine.....	dr-c A
—	4	4	Three Men in a Boat (British).....	com-c A
—	—	3	Three Strange Loves (Swedish).....	soc-dr A
—	2	1	Tides of Passion (French).....	dr-c A
—	4	2	Tingler, The.....	sci-mel AY
—	3	—	Toccata for Toy Trains.....	mus-doc-c AY
—	6	5	Too Many Crooks (British).....	cri-com A
—	2	1	Unforgiven, The.....	mel-c AY
—	5	2	Virtuous Bigamist, The (French).....	dr-c AY
—	—	3	Wasp Woman, The.....	cri-mel A
—	3	4	Web of Evidence (British).....	mys-mel A
—	3	6	Wild Strawberries (Swedish).....	dr A
—	—	3	Wolf Dog.....	mel AY
—	1	11	Woman Eater, The (British).....	sci AY
—	1	2	Woman Like Satan, A (French).....	dr A
—	9	7	Woman Obsessed.....	mel-c AY
—	5	5	Women Are Weak (French).....	com-c A
—	3	3	Wonderful Country, The.....	mel-c A
—	9	—	Yellowstone Kelly.....	mel-c AY
—	3	2	Yesterday's Enemy (British).....	war-dr A
—	—	5	Young Girls Beware (French).....	soc-mel A
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The Consumers' Observation Post

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OBESITY HAS BEEN HELD RESPONSIBLE for many ills. Now it seems that it also goes with bad teeth. According to an eminent dentist-author, Fred Miller, when a dentist's patients begin to fall into a characteristic American pattern of overweight, the symptoms can be seen in their mouths almost as quickly as their tailors see the effects in their measurements. Dr. Miller's basic advice and that of all experts is that the food intake must be reduced, wisely and consistently. Make a little go farther by eating slowly. Don't skip meals. Do eat the basic foods, and don't try to live completely without starchy foods like potatoes and bread, which can be used in moderate amounts.

* * *

SALES OF RETREAD TIRES have increased each year for the last decade. The New York Times points out that one of every three passenger car replacement tires sold at present is a retread that costs only about half as much as its brand-new counterpart. If the tire casing on which the new tread is applied is sound, a retread will be almost as good as a new tire and may last even longer, if the job is done right. Truck and bus operators are reported to be using, on the average, one retread for every new replacement tire they buy. An executive of one of the big rubber companies warns against buying a retread unless it is accompanied by a length-of-service guarantee or a workmanship-and-materials warranty. It is his opinion that the very low-priced retreads, below \$8 a tire, are usually a waste of money. He suggests that a retread selling for roughly half the price of a comparable new tire is likely to be a good buy.

* * *

ANTIBIOTICS ARE CONSIDERED MIRACLE DRUGS, but they also have serious disadvantages. According to a study in the Journal of the American Medical Association, one antibiotic that is sometimes included in commercial preparations of penicillin and streptomycin has been the cause of permanent deafness. The antibiotic that has caused this disability is dihydro-streptomycin. The doctors urge that this drug be used only when it is deemed essential to save the patient's life, and that all preparations containing it should be prominently labeled to show the presence of dihydro-streptomycin.



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THE LEASING OF APPLIANCES is apparently catching on. Westinghouse has introduced a plan on a national basis to rent a complete line of appliances, including food waste disposers, refrigerators, ranges, room air conditioners, dishwashers, freezers, washers, and dryers to apartments and hotels in certain sections of the country. General Electric is reported to be working on a similar plan, according to The Wall Street Journal, and so are the Air Conditioning Division of Hupp Corporation, and the Borg-Warner Corporation. Apartment house operators sign a lease on the equipment for a yearly rental fee that includes service charges for keeping all appliances in working order. If it works out, perhaps the plan can be extended to the individual homeowner. Consumers would welcome a "built-in" serviceman.

* * *

GOVERNMENT GRADES FOR MEAT continue to be a subject of considerable controversy. Big meat packers have long opposed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's grading of beef, veal, and lamb, partly on the ground that the big food chains beat down the wholesale price for each grade to a uniform level that would be fair only for the poorest meat within the grade. The U.S.D.A. recently was successful in resisting the attempt to bring about a suspension of federal grading of lamb and mutton, a proposed suspension that was considered to be an opening wedge for an attack by the industry on all meat standards. That present standards do not correctly reflect what consumers consider top quality in meat, however, is evident from various experiment station studies. From the University of Missouri, for example, comes the criticism that although Prime and Choice grades of beef sell at a higher price than Good, Standard, and Commercial, at least 1/3 of the steaks graded U.S. Standard are just as acceptable to consumers as U.S. Choice. The Missouri experiment station director voiced the hope that some mechanical or chemical test may be developed to give due recognition to the tenderness of lower grades more effectively than the present grading techniques do. From the Extension Service of Washington State comes a report that in a study made in Spokane supermarkets many homemakers were willing to pay 4 to 8-1/2 cents more per pound for the less fat Standard and Utility grades of beef than for the higher grades, Good, Choice, or Prime beef.

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12-59-S

Christmas tree bulb 'fire extinguishers'

*Not really good or safe fire
extinguishers, but extinguishers is
what the salesmen call them*

A CITY FIRE MARSHAL in California issued a public warning against a type of Christmas tree ornament that was sold as a fire protection and fire extinguishing device, one that would go into action by itself if the tree should catch fire. This ornament consists of a glass bulb which contains a liquid, carbon tetrachloride, which is supposed to be released automatically when a fire starts. It happens that the vapor of this liquid is extremely toxic and the gases produced when it is heated become much more so, for the deadly gas phosgene (widely known as a World War I war gas) is generated when carbon tetrachloride vapor comes into contact with hot surfaces, or flames.

This dangerous device was represented as approved by a fire department in a big city and as being sold by the women's auxiliary of that fire department. People who sell articles of low value but of high pretensions do not hesitate to make up a story if it will help them to sell the product; they made up this one, for the city in question had *not* approved the carbon tetrachloride "extinguisher" bulbs, and its fire department had no women's auxiliary. As a matter of fact, the fire marshal of that very city publicly warned *against* use of the glass bulb devices as fire extinguishers on Christmas trees.

The advertising for the device was exceedingly misleading and might have been responsible for deaths of some of those who relied upon it for their own protection or that of their children. Ads said flatly: "Stop Christmas tree fires. . . . You can be certain your Christmas tree will not maim or kill your loved ones, or destroy your home. . . . An automatic fire extinguisher which will burst and extinguish a Christmas tree fire the moment it starts."

A breakable bulb containing carbon tetrachloride could not possibly have the effectiveness implied in the advertising claims just quoted, or even approach it. Moreover the operation of the device would be dangerous to young children in the home even if there were no fire, for a broken



Ewing Galloway

bulb spilled on the floor, for instance, over a considerable area, could easily account for carbon tetrachloride vapors in amounts which could cause grave injury or even death. A few years ago a prominent woman in Texas died from acute kidney failure due to inhalation of carbon tetrachloride vapors following cleaning of paint spots from a rug in her apartment.

The possibilities for misinformation about an item of this kind, even from quarters that should be informed, are well illustrated by the fact that a very large chemical manufacturing concern ran a boost for the Christmas tree extinguishing device in its own advertising space in a trade journal under the head of new developments in the technical field. The writer of the new developments column referred to the bulb as one that "breaks automatically at 160°F to flood and put out any flash fire as soon as it starts." An editor qualified to write about chemical technology should have been aware that "flash fires" are not extinguished so easily or by such a rudimentary device, and that any commercial fire extinguishing liquid other than water presents serious dangers of poisoning people, either directly, or when it or its vapors come into contact with flames or hot surfaces.

In Chicago, the President of the Board of Health ordered the tree ornament extinguishers taken off the market, and warned everyone to destroy any they had already purchased, by smashing them, *in the open air*.

(Continued on page 28)

**COMING
IN FUTURE
BULLETINS**

Transistor portable radios

Emerson	Olympic
General Electric	RCA
Motorola	Westinghouse
Zenith	

Detergents for home laundering

Ad	Dash	Surf
All	Fab	Tide

35 mm. single-lens-reflex cameras

Beseler Topcon	Minolta SR-2
Canonflex	Miranda C
Kodak Retina S	Nikon F

and other well-known makes of the single-lens-reflex type

Men's white dress shirts

Arrow	Hathaway	Penney's
Bond	Jayson	Pilgrim
Brent	Manhattan	Van Heusen
Excello	Nelvo	Wings

1960 automobiles

Valiant, Rambler American, Rambler, and Studebaker Lark. Also full size U.S. cars, and a number of small foreign cars.

Garage door operators

Consumer Bulletin

The pioneer consumer magazine, testing and reporting on products since 1928.

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